E TIMES

MONDAY DECEMBER 15 1997

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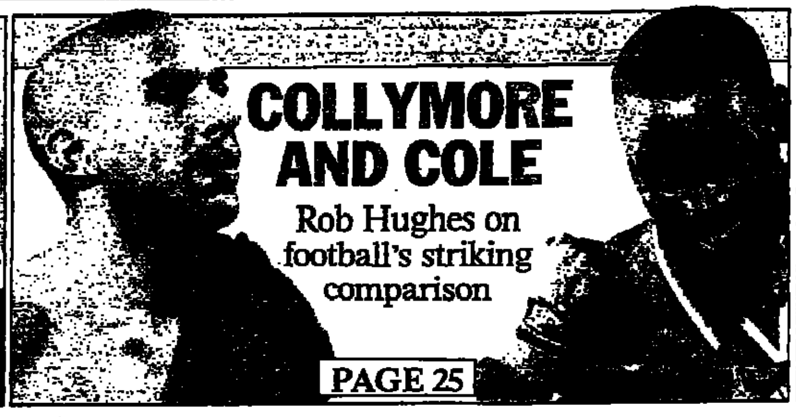

COLLYMORE AND COLE

Rob Hughes on football's striking comparison

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TODAY

10P

Defiant Robinson fails to silence critics

Robinson: "entirely open"

By Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

GEOFFREY ROBINSON was fighting to save his ministerial career last night after John Prescott offered him only lukewarm support in the controversy over his financial affairs, saying he appeared to have said "one thing and perhaps done another".

The Deputy Prime Minister's remarks prompted fresh calls for Mr Robinson to resign as Paymaster General. Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, said: "Geoffrey Robinson's credibility has been destroyed by the steady flow of revelations about his financial affairs. His position is now untenable. It is time for him to go."

But Mr Robinson rushed out a statement insisting that he would not quit and that he had been "entirely open and honest" about his offshore financial interests.

Mr Robinson had earlier admitted influencing the independent trustees of the £12 million Guernsey-based Orion Trust, which benefits his family. He conceded that he had told the trustees last year that they might buy shares in TransTec, the company he founded, when it needed £58 million from its shareholders to finance a takeover.

His comments contrasted sharply with a letter his lawyers sent to the *Observer* last week which said: "Our client did not appoint the trustees of the Orion Trust who act independently of him and are not controlled, or their decisions influenced, by him in any way."

No room on show

The BBC yesterday rejected the chance of the first television interview with Mr Robinson about his offshore interests. He arrived at BBC Television Centre thinking he was to appear on *Breakfast with Frost* but the producers said they had no room for him.

Mr Lilley said: "The charge that Geoffrey Robinson is guilty of hypocrisy stands larger than ever and has been endorsed by the Deputy Prime Minister. It is clear that Geoffrey Robinson no longer retains a shred of credibility. If he will not resign, the Prime Minister must dismiss him."

Mr Robinson's friends laughed off Mr Lilley's attack. One said: "That statement is guaranteed to ensure that Geoffrey is 100 per cent safe. He is not in the slighest bit ruffled by this."

Nevertheless, Mr Robinson suffered a setback when Mr Prescott spoke about the affair in a television interview with David Frost yesterday. He said: "You may argue that the politician said one thing [and] perhaps done another. That seems to be the greatest charge against him." And defending Tony Blair's decision to give a government job to a millionaire businessman he said: "I'm just trying to explain how we're involved with people who come from a different lifestyle involved in this kind of activity."

The unease suggested by Mr Prescott's remarks was expressed in stronger language by the left-wing Labour MP Paul Flynn, who has already called on Mr Robinson to resign. He said: "New Labour has fallen from the moral high ground to the moral low ground over this. We have followed the Tory tactic of professing innocence and then trying to shoot the messenger."

The attacks on Mr Robinson came after he gave a series of interviews in an attempt to clear his name. Of the Orion Trust that he inherited from his business friend Joska Bourgeois, he told the *Sunday Telegraph*: "I didn't set up the trust, no money has been taken from here and put offshore. I didn't have any say in how the bequest was arranged."

He also underlined his irritation at the interest in his personal affairs when asked whether he was the right person to have introduced the government scheme that put a £50,000 limit on tax-free savings. He told *The Express*: "But I pay tax. I pay more tax than the people on £50,000 Peps. I have paid £1.4 million tax in five years."

In another statement last night, he said: "In the last few weeks there have been a series of allegations and a huge research effort by investigators which has produced nothing new of substance. I am a millionaire and I am delighted also to be a businessman who is a minister in a Labour government, and I now want to get on with my job."

Opaque accounting, page 2
Leading article, page 21

Trimble may meet Adams to advance peace talks

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

DAVID TRIMBLE, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, yesterday raised the possibility of holding an unprecedented face-to-face meeting with Gerry Adams — an idea he once described as "repulsive".

The move came after Republican rioters threw more than 1,000 petrol bombs at police during a night of violence in Londonderry that lasted until early yesterday morning and caused hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage. The riots, which erupted just two days after Tony Blair received Mr Adams at Downing Street, were the worst civil disturbance to hit Northern Ireland since the IRA restored its ceasefire in July, and underlined the fragility of the peace process.

Mr Trimble, who has addressed not a word to any Sinn Fein delegate since the IRA's political wing joined the Stormont peace talks in Septem-
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It followed weeks of accusations from Sinn Fein that the UUP was not seriously engaged in the peace talks, and last Thursday Mr Adams and his delegation emerged from their historic meeting with Mr Blair to demand that Mr Trimble follow the Prime Minister's example.

The UUP official said Mr Trimble broached the issue at his party's national executive meeting on Friday. He was genuinely anxious to do all in his power to secure a settlement, but also concerned that Unionists should not be seen as the stumbling block were the peace talks to fail.

For Mr Trimble to even raise the possibility of meeting Mr Adams is nonetheless a high-risk move given the depth of Unionist opposition to his party even participating in the same multiparty talks as Sinn Fein, and some of his closest and most supportive colleagues expressed surprise last night.

Ken Maginnis, the UUP MP for Fermanagh, who had last week firmly ruled out the idea, called the prospect of direct meetings with Sinn Fein "vague and hypothetical". He said the UUP had made it clear none would occur until the Republicans had expressed remorse for their past outrages, accepted the principle of consent in Northern Ireland, declared a permanent end to violence, and expressed a willingess to dismantle their terrorist organisation.

Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, meanwhile confirmed yesterday that the peace talks would convene in London and Dublin as well as Stormont in the New Year.

The fragility of peace talks was emphasised by Saturday's rioting in Londonderry. The Royal Ulster Constabulary said it had received advance warning before a

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NIGEL HILLIER/UNP

David Hockney with his picture of Salt's Mill in Saltaire, West Yorkshire, which he painted as a tribute to Jonathan Silver, who died in September. Silver bought the dilapidated mill in 1987 and converted it into a Hockney gallery: an exhibition in his memory, *Local Views by a Local Artist for a Local Lad*, opens there today

Warburg bids for Christie's

Christie's International, the fine art auctioneer, has received a £500 million bid approach from SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the Swiss-owned merchant bank. Directors of the company and hundreds of auctioneers stand to make millions of pounds for their shares and options ... Page 48

Fears for captain

Gwyn Jones, 25, the Wales rugby union captain who is in hospital in Cardiff after suffering a serious neck injury while leading his team on Saturday, will be told later this week whether he will ever play again .... Pages 3, 34

Trawler raised

The trawler Sapphire, which sank 12 miles off Peterhead with the loss of four crew more than ten weeks ago, was recovered from the seabed after a salvage operation beset by bad weather .... Page 3

Benefit cuts face growing outcry

By James Landale, Political Reporter

TONY BLAIR was facing mounting pressure last night to rule out cutting disability benefits amid warnings of growing opposition among Labour backbenchers.

As the Prime Minister insisted that he would not be deflected from his commitment to reform the welfare state, two senior Labour peers demanded a categoric assurance that disability benefits would not be cut. Lord Ashley of Stoke and Lord Morris of Manchester — both former MPs and longstanding campaigners for disabled people's rights — said that more Labour MPs could oppose such cuts than the 47 who last week voted against reductions in state support for lone parents.

Lord Ashley, chairman of Parliament's All-Party Disablement Group, will this Thursday lead a deputation of peers and MPs to Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, to warn against action which he believes would do nothing to boost disabled people's job prospects.

William Hague stepped up the pressure by announcing that the Tories would oppose any reductions in disability benefit despite their backing last week for the Government's cut in lone-parent benefits.

Mr Blair said that a leaked Social Security department policy paper — which suggested that substantial savings could be made from sickness and disability benefits — had not been seen by him or any

Continued on page 2, col 1

Blair vows to fight for Britain

TONY BLAIR today issues a blunt warning that he is prepared for vigorous confrontations in Europe to defend Britain's interests (Nicholas Watt writes).

Fresh from a bruising encounter at the European Union summit in Luxembourg over the new "club" that will manage the single currency, the Prime Minister declares in an article in *The Times* that he will not shy away from "very strong arguments" and insists that Britain will be a "leading player in Europe".

"Nobody ever imagined that there would not be times when we would have to engage in very strong argument to protect our interests," Mr Blair writes.

Battle over euro, page 13
Blair article, page 20

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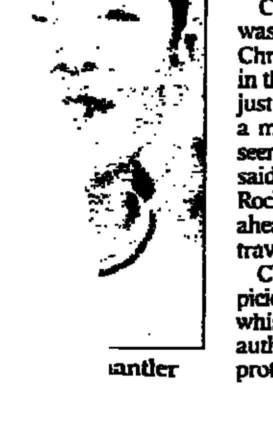
Father Christmas's reputation hangs by a whisker



antler

By Lin Jenkins

A BOY'S illusions were shattered when he was hit in the face as he tried to unmask a supermarket Santa.

Christopher Chantler, 8, was amazed to find Father Christmas sitting in his grotto in the Asda store when he had just seen him in another shop a mile away. Anxious not be seen as an imposter, Santa said that he had flown to the Rochdale store, arriving ahead of the boy who had travelled by car.

Christopher remained suspicious and gave his white whiskers a tug to check their authenticity. Santa sought to protect his identity, but in the process caught the boy across the face, reducing him to tears.

His mother claims the blow was deliberate. Santa and Asda claim that it was an accident and that they are deeply sorry. Either way, Santa will never be the same again to Christopher.

Janice Chantler, 28, said: "He said that he doesn't want Father Christmas to come to our house because he does nasty things. He was heartbroken.

"I saw Santa pull his arm back and hit him. I could not believe what I was seeing. I flew over to the grotto but Santa just walked away and began talking to friends. Christopher was crying his eyes out," she said. "All the innocence has gone and it can never be replaced. Father Christmas has let everybody down. Back home he kept asking 'Why would Santa do something like that to me Mum?'"

Father Christmas later apologised in person to Christopher and his mother, who were given vouchers to use in the store. A company spokesman said: "Santa tried not to disillusion the child and told him he had flown to Asda. When his beard was pulled he tried to do the same by holding on to his beard and hat so as not to be unmasked and accidentally hit the child."

Leading article, page 21

"Do that once more and I'll take you to see Father Christmas"

هكذا من الأجل

The Queen will open her account books

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

THE QUEEN has agreed that she will open up the account books and records of the Royal Household to scrutiny for the first time. It would reveal precisely how £20.4 million of taxpayers' money is spent in the occupied royal palaces such as Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

The new approach has emerged before this week's publication of a report from the Commons Public Accounts Committee, questioning the running of the royal premises and the use of grace-and-favour accommodation by royals, employees and pensioners. The report will call for a curb on public subsidies for such accommodation.

The opening of the books is in response to a previous call from the committee that the National Audit Office should have an automatic right to examine the Royal Household accounts and to check whether current spending reflects value for money. David Davis, Tory chairman of the committee, is to renew his demand for Parliament's auditors to be able to follow all public money. He also believes the £7.9 million Civil List should come under scrutiny.

On Wednesday, he is expected to emphasise that MPs are concerned to ensure that the occupied royal palaces are being efficiently managed. They include Clarence House, the home of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, St James's Palace, London base for the Prince of Wales, and Kensington Palace, home to Princess Margaret, the Kents and the Gloucesters and members of the Royal Household. MPs want to ensure that realistic commercial rents are being paid for use of the properties, and they also believe that more effort should be made to lease properties on the open market when they fall vacant. They argue, however, that without market valuation on the properties, it is impossible to ascertain realistic levels of commercial rent. Without such a valuation, they argue, it is impossible to work out the level of tax to be charged for dwellings regarded as a taxable benefit. It is understood that some properties are kept vacant on police advice, because they are in "secure areas".

The Queen is anxious to show greater transparency in the use of taxpayers' money. The Royal Family and members of the household are keen to nail untruths that they personally benefit from taxpayers' money and that they are somehow exempt from council tax bills, utility bills and day to day repairs.

Last year, revenues of £103 million were returned from the Queen to the State. On the advice of ministers, the Queen also makes an annual report to MPs on the costs of official travel by each member of the Royal Family.

The Public Accounts Committee has spent two years trying to ascertain precise figures for property services, salaries and accommodation. For example, MPs are still unclear why people with limited royal duties benefit from a home inside a palace. At Windsor Castle, 13 military knights are given homes because they are required to attend weekly services in ceremonial dress.

When evidence was given to the committee two years ago, eight apartments were occupied by [illegible], 226 by current employees, [illegible] former staff and four through grace-and-favour arrangements. Since then, the Queen has authorised a number of changes.

Following the advice of Michael Peat, the Royal Household's Director of Finance, many properties are being rented out on a more commercial basis. Last year, rents and salary deductions for the use of apartments came to £750,000, while £239,000 was received in rent from properties let on the open market. More properties will be added to when they fall vacant. Mr Peat himself pays £700 a week for use of his apartment at Kensington Palace, and he pays tax on the perk.

City puzzled by minister's accounting

From Bronwen Maddox

GEOFFREY ROBINSON has emerged with a reputation as a good businessman despite his company's patchy performance while he was chairman and chief executive. TransTec's accounting practices, while legal, were highly opaque, as were some of its relations with private companies in which Mr Robinson had a role. Although the company had ended all connection with Robert Maxwell in 1991, the City found continued reasons for mistrust.

Mr Robinson's original idea was to found a company which would transfer technology from universities and technical colleges to manufacturing industry, or between different industries. Mr Robinson's Transfer Technology venture caught Maxwell's eye.

In 1987 Mr Robinson became a director of Central & Sheerwood, a publicly-quoted company partly owned by Maxwell. Also a director of Hollis, the science-based engineering group owned by Maxwell, Mr Robinson led a buyout of Hollis's engineering businesses, outbidding the management team.

In April 1991 he carried out a reverse takeover of Central & Sheerwood, a quick means for a private company of getting a stock market quotation without the expense of listing itself.

The terms of the deal were controversial, and coming immediately ahead of the flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers, reawakened City suspicion of the "Max Factor" — the shuffling of assets between private and public businesses that made the stock market wary of Maxwell companies.

Central & Sheerwood acquired Transfer Technology for £6.25 million.

Shareholders were also annoyed at the decision to place the 28 per cent stake owned by the merchant bank Robert Fraser Group with selected institutions, at a discount.

Shortly before he died, in a scramble to sell off assets, Maxwell sold the Central & Sheerwood stake in the market for £8.24 million.

Freed from the Maxwell shadow, TransTec enjoyed a year of City favour. It rapidly bought a dozen companies, scrambling to buy its way out of the recession facing the motor business. In 1992, the company launched a well-supported £23.9 million rights issue to pay for its acquisitions.

Mr Robinson said that he wanted to make TransTec "a company of European scale ... that would mean having sales of £500 million and profits of about £50 million".

But by 1993, the honeymoon was ending. TransTec's performance was below expectations, and it was generating too little cash to keep up the rate of acquisitions. However, it found shareholders reluctant to back another rights issue; it abandoned a mooted rights issue at an early stage, splitting with its brokers and changing its auditors.

Much of the City's mistrust arose from the opacity of the accounts, not just because it was acquiring so many businesses. Using accounting practices which, while legal, infuriated investors, TransTec frequently wrote down the assets of newly-acquired companies to "fair value", sometimes by nearly two-thirds. Although this weakened the balance sheet, it could have an immediate effect in boosting profits. TransTec was also criticised for having a high proportion of earnings dependent on management's view of unfinished projects.

In August 1993, analysts also queried why the original Robinson businesses appeared to be losing money. Mr Robinson is reported as saying this was an accounting nicety; he had transferred those businesses elsewhere in the TransTec group for tax reasons.

He was also criticised for maintaining links between his private financial interests and the public TransTec. He sold a business he owned, the Indiana-based Roll Centre, to TransTec partly to avoid concerns about the pricing of services between the public and private companies.

In October 1994, Mr Robinson gave up the post of chief executive. He denied that it was as a result of investor pressure, but several large shareholders were quoted as saying that their disappointment with earnings growth led them to push him to split the top two jobs. He said the accounting practices had been changed to make the results easier to understand.

Benefit cuts

Continued from page 1

ministers and should be "completely discounted". In an interview on GMTV's *Sunday Programme*, he repeated that he would not take benefits away from "those who needed it". But senior government sources denied reports that Mr Blair was backing away from welfare cuts and the Prime Minister made clear he remained committed to reform, saying: "It is the big idea and we mustn't be deflected from carrying out the reforms that are necessary to provide opportunity for people."

Mr Blair added that £195 million from the windfall tax would be given to disabled people to help them to get off benefit and into work. "No one is talking about taking away benefits from those who need it, of course we mustn't do that," he said. "But what we have got to try and do is reform the system so that those who can and want to get into work are able to do so."

On BBC Radio's *The World This Weekend*, John Denham, Minister for the Disabled, refused repeated opportunities to rule out any cut in disability benefits. But he added: "We do have a comprehensive review of social security spending and that does include the complex system of benefits for sick and disabled people."

Lord Ashley yesterday told *The Times*: "There must be no cut in individual disability benefits. We support the idea of a review to improve the efficiency of the disability benefits system but we are very strongly opposed to individual cuts."

Mr Hague told *The World This Weekend* that the Tories would support government plans to control costs and reduce dependency in the welfare state, but would draw the line at cutting the Disability Living Allowance.

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PAUL McERLANE AP

An RUC officer in riot gear walks into street of petrol bombs in the centre of Londonderry early yesterday

Trimble hints at Adams meeting

Continued from page 1

Protestant parade through the city that "a small, extreme group was planning provocation, confrontation and violence". William Ross, the Ulster Unionist MP for East Londonderry, called the riots a deliberate act of defiance and aggression by members of Sinn Fein and the IRA that could herald the ceasefire's collapse.

The rioting broke out on Saturday evening after disturbances earlier in the day when police restrained up to 1,000 residents of the Catholic Bogside area protesting at a traditional Apprentice Boys march through the city centre. By the time the police bought the violence under control at about 4.00am yesterday they had fired 169 plastic bullets at masked rioters who been attacking them with petrol bombs, bricks, rocks and other missiles.

Thirteen people, including youths and women, were arrested. The Littlewoods department store, buses and numerous hijacked cars were set on fire. Several people including an 11-year-old boy and five police officers, were injured. For much of the time the fire brigade had to stay out of the city centre because of the fighting.

"Hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage has been done, millions of pounds worth of trade has been lost and the international reputation of the city has been tarnished," said Superintendent Paul Leighton, the area's RUC commander.

Mr Ross said the riot was "carefully planned to do maximum damage to Londonderry and the peace process". It showed that "no matter what anyone does to placate these people, they will not be be satisfied with anything less than a united Ireland".

He feared it "may be the start of a return to full-blown violence".

John Hume, the leader of the nationalist SDLP and Londonderry's other MP, agreed that the riot had been planned in advance and strongly condemned those responsible.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America bans E[illegible] meat over BSE fears

America has banned the import of all European cattle, sheep and related products amid fears of "mad cow" disease. The Agriculture Department had previously restricted imports only from Britain and eight other European countries where the disease was known to exist. The new regulations extend the curbs to a further 21 countries and will remain in force until there is proof that the risk of BSE has been eliminated from Europe. The ban is expected to have little impact as the US imports very few meat products from EU farmers.

Lawrence row

Police who investigated the 1993 killing of the black student Stephen Lawrence, 18, in Eltham, south-east London, were inept but not racist, according to a report by the Police Complaints Authority that is expected to be published today by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

Hunt arrests

Forty-two people were being held by police last night after violent clashes at Hursley and Hambledon Hunt at Warnford in Hampshire on Saturday. Three people needed hospital treatment. Officers studied video footage taken from a spotter plane of hunt saboteurs ambushing the meeting.

More diabetics

The number of diabetics in Britain will rise from 1.2 million to 3.1 million in 12 years unless there is a change in lifestyles, George Alberti, president of the Royal College of Physicians, says a combination of greater obesity and less exercise "must mean an increased rate of diabetes".

Farmers protest

Up to 300 farmers will gather in Westminster today to lobby MPs for £980 million to compensate them for the strength of the pound, which has hit their industry hard. They will be joined by butchers seeking a reprieve from the ban of beef on the bone, due to take effect tomorrow.

GPs go online

Doctors are to receive £150 million from the Government to update their computer systems. The move, signalled in the health service White Paper, is designed to bring GPs' equipment up to a national standard, with every computer connected to an NHS Internet link.

Beach death

A student died at a party on a beach in Goa after taking heroin, an inquest in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, was told. A pathologist said Toby Maxwell, 22, of Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, died of bronchopneumonia, made worse by the drug. Verdict: death by natural causes.

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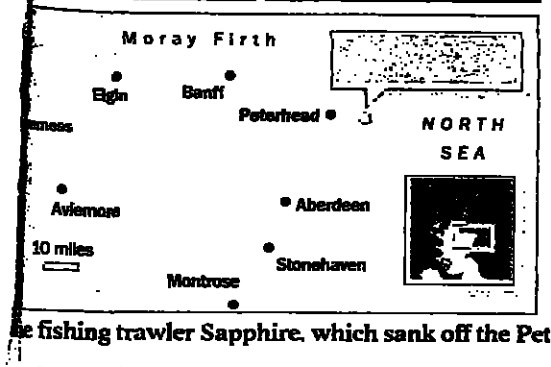
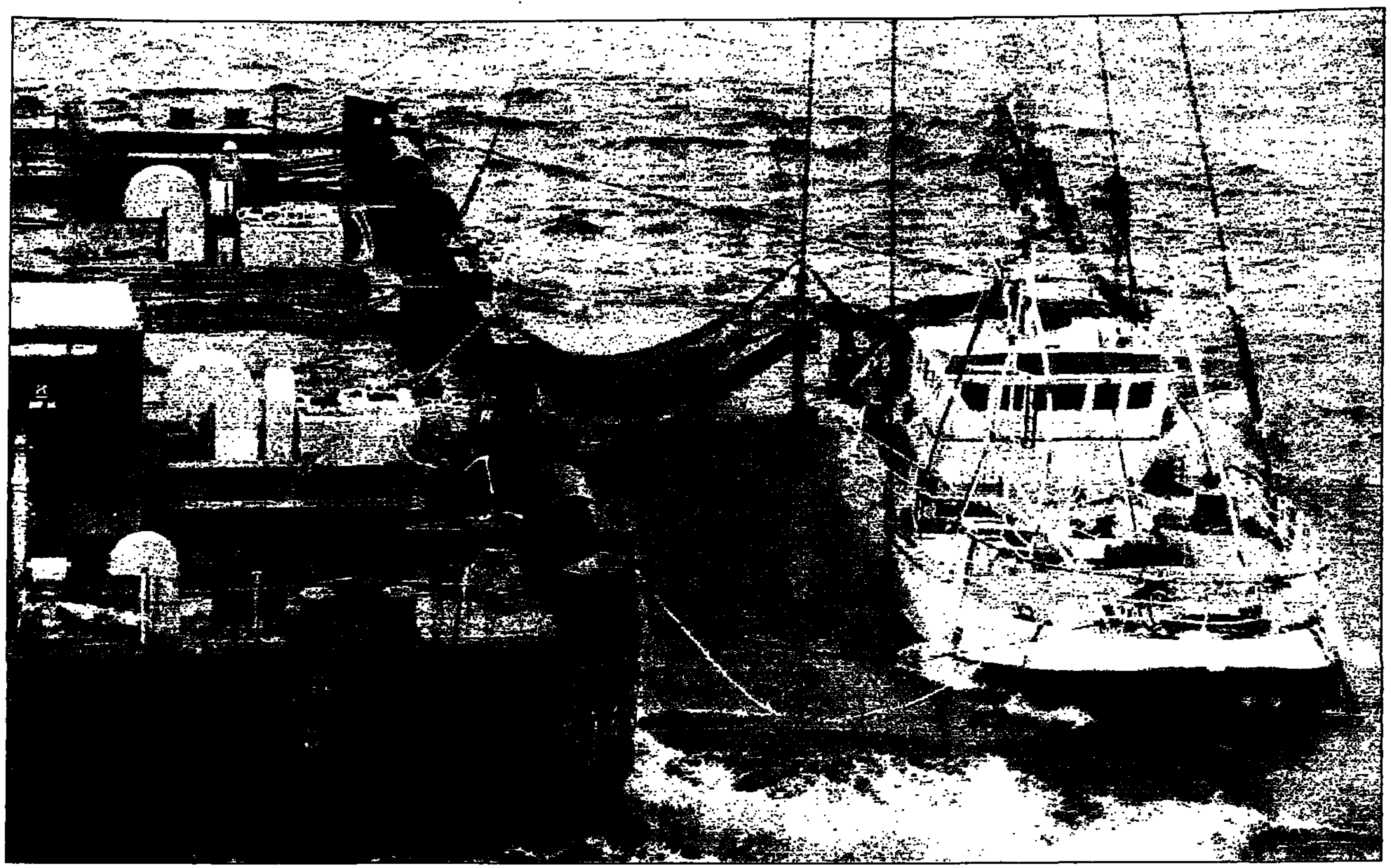
Families' relief as trawler is raised

The victims: above, Robert Stephen, left, and Victor Podlesny; below, Adam Stephen and Bruce Cameron





e fishing trawler Sapphire, which sank off the Peterhead coast ten weeks ago with the loss of four lives, being raised yesterday from the North Sea by the Tak Lift 7 barge. The recovery was paid for by donations from the public

Michael Horsnell reports on a tragedy that has touched the heart of the Scottish people and could lead to a change in the law

E trawler *Sapphire*, which sank ı the loss of four crew more ı ten weeks ago, was finally vered from the seabed yester- at the end of a troubled salvage ration.

he boat, which went down in ft of water when she was hit by jant wave 12 miles off her home t of Peterhead, was raised after stant frustration for the families the drowned men caused by bad eather postponing recovery.

Last night the lifting barge that covered her sailed into a secure art of Peterhead harbour where e search for the bodies thought to e on board was to be completed.

The lifting operation was performed by the Tak Lift 7 barge after a safety review and technical appraisal early yesterday afternoon led to the go-ahead for the *Sapphire* to be eased from her resting place on the seabed.

As the 70 ft wooden boat broke the surface of the North Sea with buckled masts and aerials, her name was just visible on the side, and fishing nets could also be seen strewn around the decks towards the stern, as she was secured to the lifting barge.

It had been hoped that the search for the bodies could be carried out at sea but, with more bad weather forecast, salvage experts decided to leave the scene and return to port rather than risk another hitch in the operation, which has been dogged by delays.

Once the bodies of the Peterhead fishermen, Victor Podlesny, 45, Adam Stephen, 29, Robert Stephen, 25, and Bruce Cameron, 32, have been recovered, the *Sapphire* will be returned to a final resting place at sea.

Mr Podlesny, a father of four, lived with his wife, Isobel, at Hope Street, Peterhead. Robert Stephen, of York Street, Peterhead, left a young widow, Shirley, and a daughter, Darcie, 2. Adam Stephen, no relation of Robert, lived with his wife Patricia in the town's Wallace Crescent. Bruce Cameron, who was divorced, lived with his parents, Bill and Wilma, at Pitfour Court, Peterhead.

Only the skipper, Victor Robertson, 27, survived the accident after escaping through the wheelhouse. He was picked up after spending 90 minutes in a liferaft by a Sea King helicopter scrambled from RAF Lossiemouth after he had fired two red flares to raise the alarm.

Robert Cardno, chairman of the fishermen's mission in Peterhead and spokesman for the victims' relatives, said: "The families are thankful that the anxious wait of the past ten weeks is nearing an end.

"They would like to express their enormous gratitude for all the help and support they have received during this difficult period."

As winter drew in and numerous attempts to raise the vessel failed, the families and their supporters in the close-knit Peterhead community never let their hopes fade. The determination of the widows that their husbands' bodies should be recovered and given a Christian burial touched the hearts of the Scottish people.

After the Government refused to pay for the vessel to be recovered, the families set up the Sapphire Trust to raise the money to hire the giant floating crane.

Initial estimates suggested a cost of £380,000 and this was raised in three days as donations poured in from all over the country, from small children who gave up their pocket money, to the rich and famous such as Richard Branson, the Virgin chief, who pledged £25,000.

The Sapphire campaign may lead to reform in the Government policy of not recovering the bodies of fishermen lost at sea.

Glenda Jackson, the Shipping Minister, announced the review after criticism of her decision not to help the *Sapphire* families and her remark that the grieving families should view the sea as "an honourable resting place for the men".

Ms Jackson said the *Sapphire* case had posed "many difficult questions", and issued a consultation document so an "informed" debate could be held on the subject.

At present, no public agency is responsible for recovering bodies from fishing boat wrecks. However, technological advances in recent years — including techniques used in the development of the North Sea oilfields — are beginning to make the recovery of bodies from the sea possible.

Alex Salmond, the SNP MP for Banff and Buchan, has given his support to the families and argued their case.

Isobel Podlesney, one of the bereaved, said: "There have been too many fishermen in the past left in a watery grave and we don't want that for our loved ones."

The wreck was located 2½ weeks after she went down and an investigation was launched by the Marine Accident Investigation branch in Southampton.

The *Sapphire* went down on October 1 as she headed for her home port after a three-day fishing trip.

Rugby accident rekindles fears over safety of sport

By Emma Wilkins

THE Wales rugby union captain who suffered a serious neck injury while leading his team on Saturday will be told later this week whether he will ever play again.

Gwyn Jones, 25, a medical student, is recovering in the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. His parents Alan and Anne, both doctors, are by his bedside. Although the injury is serious, Mr Jones's neck is not broken, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The incident, which happened when Mr Jones fell awkwardly after making a tackle in midfield, is bound to rekindle the debate over the safety of rugby. The sport has claimed 14 lives in the past 25 years and results in about ten serious spinal injuries a year.

Gwyn Jones, the Wales rugby union captain, receives attention for a neck injury sustained after a tackle

But British parents whose children play rugby at school should not be worried, according to Nigel Mendoza, consultant neurosurgeon at the West London Neurosciences Centre at Charing Cross Hospital. "The number of serious spinal injuries in rugby is pretty rare — no more than ten a year," he said. "There is bound to be a risk of injury in any contact sport but you are more likely to be hurt on the roads than playing rugby." In 1996, some 3,600 people were killed in road traffic accidents, and 3,800 died after accidents in their homes.

Some schools play a safer version of rugby called "new image" rugby which was introduced by the Rugby Football Union more than ten years ago. The game, in which 15-strong teams are reduced to nine, concentrates on handling and passing of the ball.

Instead of the fearsome tackles that characterise the adult game, players wear coloured tags around their waists. Players from the opposing team aim to touch the tag, at which point the player must pass the ball. Children play new image rugby from the age of nine to 12 or 13, when they are introduced to the adult game.

The Welsh Rugby Union sent its sympathy to Mr Mr Jones's family and said yesterday: "Gwyn is a highly intelligent, handsome and fun-loving young man at the height of his rugby career but, more importantly, an integral part of a close family and friend and talisman to countless others. We wish him a speedy recovery."

Gerald Davies, page 34

Perfect site for Waste Land

*As Fiona Shaw treads the boards at a Victorian East End music hall, **Benedict Nightingale** finds himself deeply drawn into T.S. Eliot's desolate cityscape*

BEFORE Wilton's Music Hall was wrecked by fire in 1880, unwary men are said to have been lured there by ladies of the night, plied with booze, robbed, dropped through a trapdoor, dragged through underground passages, and dumped in the back streets of Wapping.

Though their victims were mostly sailors, not critics, I can guess how they felt. After witnessing the tremendous Fiona Shaw give her all to *The Waste Land* yesterday, I too was to be found tottering along Cable Street, shaken and not a little stirred.

It was an odd yet apt setting for Shaw's delivery of T.S. Eliot's poem. You walk down an alley, past boarded-up brickwork, through a pokey door, past flaking plaster walls, and into a surprisingly pretty auditorium.

When it opened, in 1859, Wilton's was the English-speaking world's premier music hall. George Laybourn earned £100 a night singing *Champagne Charlie is My Name*, beneath a gas chandelier in which 3,000 pieces of crystal sparkled with flame from 300 burners. But the hall had seriously declined by 1880, and after the fire it dwindled, first into a Wesleyan gospel mission, then into a warehouse for rags. Now it is sometimes used as a setting for movies — *Oh, What a Lovely War!*, *Bleak House* — but not for anything more theatrical.

But could any conventional theatre better suit Eliot's lament for desolate landscapes, deadly cities, and a civilisation in postdiluvian decay? Rightly, Deborah Warner, who directs, limits the stage effects to a yellow electric bulb or two, a couple of chairs and, occasionally, Fiona Shaw's own shadow, looming large on the wall behind. As for Shaw herself, she compensates for her stark clothes — black jacket, dark grey cardigan, finally a simple black dress — by giving an astonishingly variegated, multicoloured performance.

As she launched into the lines about cruel April, convivial summer and a winter spent girlishly tobogganing, I feared she might act out the poem's swiftly changing moods too obviously and explicitly. I need not have worried. True, she gives us a comic peek at the self-important clairvoyante, Madame Sosostris, shows us the "house agent's clerk" in cold seducer's mode, and even lets the thunder dryly boom.

Yet gravity and wry incisiveness are there too. The clatter of a pub at closing time shifts into a painfully dignified "Good night, sweet ladies". You can see the dead trees, the dry rocks, the rat dragging itself along slimy canal banks, the drowned sailor with pearls for eyes. You can hear the shuffling footsteps, the wind under the door, the red snarling faces, the "jug jug" of loveless copulation. In the weird decrepitude of Wilton's, you experience the baffled despair of T.S. Eliot.

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15-stone woman sues Harrods for 'sizeism'

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A 15-STONE American businesswoman who says she was a victim of "sizeism" when she was thrown out of Harrods for wearing leggings is to sue for damages. Ailene Kadden had bought her £250 outfit of brown leggings and a white embroidered shirt in the store on a previous trip, but said that she was told Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner, did not like what she was wearing.

Lawyers for Ms Kadden, 48, are to issue a writ for defamation claiming that other customers thought she had been shoplifting when she was asked to leave by a security guard at the Knightsbridge store in May. Ms Kadden said she wanted to make a stand for larger women after failing to receive an apology from the owner, Mohammed Al Fayed.

"It was a mortifying experience," she said. "I was immaculate. I had come from the beauty parlour that morning. I'd had my hair done and I worked in the fashion business so I know how to dress. As [illegible] large, I am always particularly careful. But I was told I had to leave, which was particularly humiliating as I was with my mother who was wearing just the same kind of clothes but was undisturbed."

Al Fayed: facing a claim valued up to £40,000

Ms Kadden, who is 5ft 9ins and takes a size 20, had spent about £1,400 in the store that day, and says she is particularly hurt that the shop was willing to let her spend her money but then objected to her apparel. She said the customer services department had later confirmed that Mr Al Fayed had personally objected to her outfit.

"I think it was a bad judgment call but what has hurt me subsequently is that he has refused to issue a simple apology. All I wanted was a card or flowers to say sorry, but despite exchanging a number of letters, it appears international goodwill means nothing."

At her £300-a-night hotel suite only yards away from Harrods, Ms Kadden said she did not want other people to experience her humiliation: "I'm only a little person but I want to make a stand against this kind of behaviour. I've shopped around the world and I've never been treated the way I was in Harrods that day. It has shattered my self-confidence to the core."

The Californian, who is a children's clothing buyer with offices in Los Angeles, New York and Dallas, and who includes Zandra Rhodes, the designer, among her friends, said the incident had ended her 26-year-old love affair with the store: "I've come to London to shop for many years now, but I will never set foot in the store again after its welcome that day. It's appalling it feels it can pick and choose its customers. It is a heartless and discriminatory policy."

Mark Stephens, her lawyer, said that they would be suing Mr Al Fayed for damages on three principles. "Ms Kadden was admitted to the store past the security guards, which means they had approved what she was wearing," she said.

"Secondly, throwing her out was clearly sizeist, as her mother was not asked to leave even though she was wearing the same kind of thing. But our main battleground is that the reaction of other shoppers made it clear they thought Ms Kadden was being arrested for shoplifting. We want substantial compensation for defamation and hurt feelings."

Legal experts value Ms Kadden's claim at between £30,000 to £40,000, which the American said she would donate to charity if successful. A spokesman for Harrods, which introduced a rigid dress code in 1989, banning unsuitable attire, declined to comment yesterday.

GILL ALLEN

Ailene Kadden said: "I'm a little person. I want to make a stand"

Fat chance and the weight of evidence

IN AN age of endless fashion images of thin models, there are increasing claims of annoyance and discrimination among those who do not believe that the human frame is likely to shrink to a uniform size ten.

A European study showed that overweight people were more likely to find themselves broke, unemployed and miserable, while their slender rivals were more successful.

A Manchester barrister is compiling complaints on behalf of hundreds of people who claim they are being refused NHS treatment because they are too fat. Earlier this year, a hospital in Nottinghamshire denied surgery to a 20-stone woman on the ground that she was too heavy for the operating table.

The Department of Social Security, which can make funeral grants of up to £500, has been urged to pay more for special coffins for fat people.

Waite speaks out against privacy law

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

TERRY WAITE, the former Beirut hostage, has called for the "priceless jewel" of press freedom to be defended against the threat of a privacy law.

Despite his own family having been harassed by journalists, Mr Waite gave warning of the dangers of imposing restrictions on newspapers on the basis of extreme cases of intrusiveness.

Next month, judges in Strasbourg will begin hearing Earl Spencer's claim that, with respect to the publication of photographs of his ex-wife at a clinic, the Government failed to protect his right to privacy under the European Convention on Human Rights. The Government is considering excluding newspapers from that article of the convention when it is enacted into UK law. But if Earl Spencer wins his case, a right to privacy for British subjects might be imposed over the heads of British ministers.

Mr Waite said: "I can mpathise with Earl Spencer d people who have their ghts violated. But I don't ink you make the whole case r muzzling the press because a breach of good taste and mmon sense. We are in danger of being swayed by mass emotion. It is very hard sometimes for people to make reasonable judgments about these things.

"They see Earl Spencer's wife's privacy was violated; Princess Diana's privacy was violated — so they think: let's close all loopholes, fine journalists, lock them up."

Mr Waite, who was an envoy of the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said reporters used to gather outside his home when he was a hostage, wait for his wife to leave the house, and then push messages through the door knowing that his children were on their own. "That was an intolerable and terrible strain for them," he said.

When his wife challenged the journalists, they explained that since one editor had stationed a reporter on his doorstep, the rest had to stay there too in case they missed anything.

Eventually, she reported them to the Press Complaints Commission — the voluntary body that regulates newspapers, which called the journalists off. Mr Waite said he preferred that kind of agreement to legal restrictions.

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Cambridge gets £2m from the Eastender who means business

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JAMES BRABAZON

A thankful Dennis Gillings, who said: "I didn't know anyone as a kid who went to university. I felt privileged"

Said: a benefactor of Oxford business school

THE son of a fishmonger from London's East End never forgot how a year at Cambridge put him on course for a successful business careeer in America. Now Dennis Gillings has become one of the university's largest donors, with a £2 million donation to its business school.

Dennis Gillings was introduced to statistics in a diploma course at Cambridge, and went on to found a international healthcare management firm based in the US. Business studies have been scorned by some academics at Britain's ancient universities as a field unworthy of their attention, but Dr Gillings, 53, described this as "absolute *nonsense*".

He said: "To make the rather snobbish assertion that *people in commercial life are* not as brainy as people in other sorts of life, and that the problems *are not as* complex, is just nonsense. It shows a lack of understanding in some areas of *society." His donation* will establish a Dennis Gillings Professorship of Health Management.

Born during the Second World War in the East End, Dr Gillings grew up in humble circumstances with the privation of rationing. His high IQ enabled him to win a place at grammar school, and from there he went to Essex University, gaining a first in mathematics. "I didn't know anyone as a kid who went to university. I felt privileged," he said. He took a postgraduate diploma in statistics at Cambridge in 1967. "That set me on the path of my current career. I owe it a lot," he said.

He went back to Essex for his doctorate, then went to America as an academic, becoming a professor in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina. In 1982, he founded his company, Quintiles, which provides contract research, sales and marketing advice for pharmaceutical companies and information management for the healthcare industry. It employs 9,000 people in 25 countries, and has been tipped to make an annual profit of about £30 million.

Dr Gillings's *personal* shareholding in Quintiles is now worth *more* than *£130 million. Although* he lives in a fairly modest home in North Carolina, he jets *around the world in his own* Cessna, and has a flat in Mayfair for visits to London.

His company was formed after he was called in by the German company Hoechst over deaths allegedly linked to its diabetes drug Diabeta. By analysing hospital data, he was able to show that the deaths were caused by pre-existing kidney or liver com*plaints. From then on he was* in demand from pharmaceutical companies to process drug trials.

Dr Gillings said he admired the Judge Institute, Cambridge's business school, because it embodied a "sensible" attitude by embracing a very vocational area of teaching and research.

The Judge Institute, based in the former Addenbrooke's hospital building, was opened by the Queen in March last year. It has a fledgling rival at Oxford, the Said Business School, which is in the process *of being set up following a* £20 million gift from Wafic Said, the Syrian-born businessman. The business schools have been particularly successful in attracting funding. The Judge was made possible by the donation of £8 million from Sir Paul Judge, a Cambridge graduate. Simon Sainsbury gave £5 million to the Judge, and fellow alumnus Peter Beckwith gave £5 million to the university, with £1 million ring-fenced for the business school.

University creates consolation prize for dons

Cambridge plans to spend £750,000 introducing 300 senior lecturerships in an attempt to boost staff morale, reports **David Charter**

CAMBRIDGE University is *planning to spend £750,000* promoting 300 lecturers to placate dons about their perceived low status.

Academics have voted to create the post of senior lecturer. In so doing they have rejected Oxford University's solution to its staff morale crisis: the creation of 162 titular professors. Cambridge dons decided on the new salaried post because it will allow lecturers who have reached the top of the ordinary scale to increase their pay from £29,875 to £33,202.

In rejecting titular professorships, which bring no extra salary, Cambridge dons have agreed to keep the system that awards just ten prized posts of professor each year, on a salary of £41,288.

There will also be no increase in the 30 promotions to readerships, the post immediately below professor, which brings £35,893 and, more importantly, status.

Campaigners for change in the Cambridge system said that they would continue to fight *for more professorships.* Oxford decided to double its number of professors two years ago partly because it was worried that the best academics would leave for America, where the title is more readily available. Unlike most universities, Oxford does not have senior lectureships.

Gillian Evans, a medieval *history don who has brought* several legal challenges against the Cambridge authorities in an attempt to reform its promotions system, including a claim of sexual discrimination, said that the post of senior lecturer was a welcome development but was not the end of her battle.

Dr Evans said: "Senior lectureships will reward a lot of people who do much of the sterling work in the boiler *room of the university. But it is* an also-ran title. It is a consolation prize for those *who are doing* really outstanding research and should be getting a readership or professorship."

She criticised the university's consultation questionnaire on promotions because it did not ask whether academics thought that everyone who deserved a professorship *should get one. Cambridge* maintains that it does not have the money to extend the number of professorships and readerships.

In the consultation, dons voted to reject titular professorships by two to one and agreed to keep the existing professor promotion scheme by three to two. The plan for senior lecturers was by far the most popular of four schemes, which included the status quo.

The General Board of the Faculties, which represents Cambridge departments, has *proposed the scheme. It now* needs the formal approval of the university's ruling council.

The board said that about 40 per cent of Cambridge's 716 lecturers should be promoted to bring it into line with others in the Russell Group of leading universities, which includes Birmingham, Bristol, *Leeds, Oxford and University* College London. Among these, unpromoted lecturers make up 47 per cent of academic staff, while at Cambridge the figure is 64 per cent.

The Cambridge board concluded that it wanted to move towards 47 per cent quickly. It added: "It is reasonable to assume that a significant proportion of university lecturers deserve recognition in respect of the excellence of their contri*bution in teaching, adminis*tration and research."

The board added: "The ad*ditional recurrent cost* ... would be of the order of £750,000 a year. The cost would be offset by savings accruing from the gradual phasing out of the discretionary payments for university lecturers, of the order of £150,000 anually."

Students clamour for places despite new fees

BY DAVID CHARTER

THE introduction of £1,000 tuition fees is creating a marketplace where students are clamouring *for* the best in higher education. Applications to Britain's top universities are *buoyant* despite a general drop of about 6 per cent, figures reveal.

Fewer than *ten of* the country's 96 universities have so far received a year-on-year rise in *appli*cations. Among these are London School of Economics, which came fourth in *The Times* university rankings, Warwick (fifth) and York (sixth).

A further 20 have increased their *share* of applicants, including the rest of the *The Times* top ten: Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College London, University College London, Durham, St Andrews and Edinburgh.

Warwick University, *whose applications* are 3 per cent up on this time last year, has increased its *A-level targets for candi*dates in *ten* popular courses because they are so oversubscribed.

At the other end of the spectrum, several former polytechnics have found applications down by up to 20 per cent. At Liverpool John Moores University, where there are 15 per cent fewer candidates, a spokeswoman said the downturn was "*across the board*", suggesting that tuition fees might be to blame.

The *Universities and* Colleges Admissions Service has written to all candidates reminding them that applications can still be made after tomorrow's formal closing date for entry next autumn. Many universities were yesterday reporting signs of a late *rush in applications* as students realised that the £1,000 fee will be means-*tested*.

Manchester Metropolitan University, where applications were down by 20 per cent at the end of November, said yesterday that latest figures showed it was now 5 per cent down on last year.

There was some good news for former polytechnics, with Thames Valley University and The University of the West of *England in Bristol showing* a rise in applications.

Lawyers lose role to CPS officials

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIALS in the Crown Prosecution Service are to be *given the authority to deal* with tens of thousands of cases in magistrates' courts, the *Government is to announce* tomorrow.

Jack Straw will tell MPs that *lay presenters are to be* allowed to present uncontested cases in an attempt to cut costs and free lawyers to focus on not guilty pleas.

Hundreds of administrators working in the Crown Prosecution Service will be given powers similar to those of staff working for Customs and Excise and the Health and Safety Executive in cases where a defendant pleads guilty. Some 734,000 — 81 per cent — of all cases dealt with in magistrates' courts in 1996-97 were uncontested.

The change, expected to be included in the Crime and Disorder Bill, is one of a package of measures outlined in a review of delays in the criminal justice system published by the Home Office in February. The Home Secretary's proposal is strongly *opposed by the Law Society* and the Bar, which fear that their professional status is being *undermined*.

An attempt in 1988 to allow files to be reviewed by CPS executive officers was ruled unlawful by the courts after the First Division Association challenged the move by the then Director of Public *Prosecutions*.

Law report, page 41

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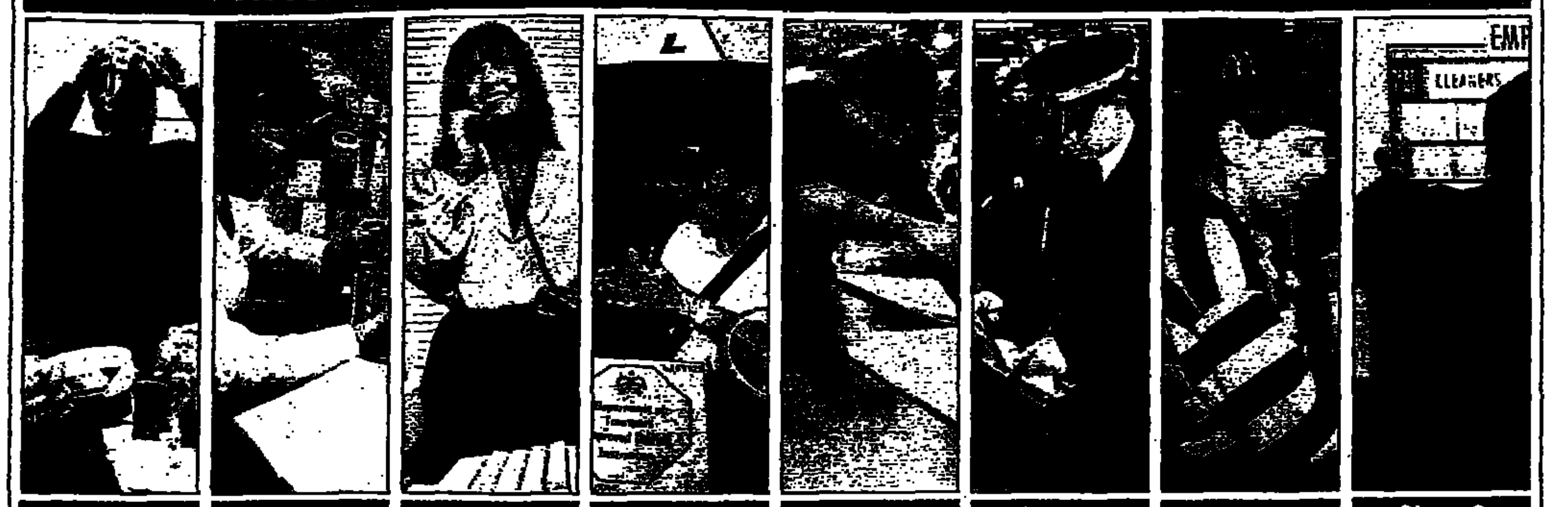
Class tightens its grip on Britain

reat of the dole queue sharpens distinction between who's up d who's down, says a new social ofile. **Mark Henderson** reports

WHAT YOUR JOB'S WORTH IN SOCIAL STATUS: THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL CATEGORIES



Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6	Class 7	Class 8
Professionals; employers, administrators and managers ▲ in companies employing 25 or more people (eg doctor, lawyer, scientist, company director)	Associate professionals; employers, administrators and managers in companies employing fewer than 25 people; supervisors (eg nurse ▲, sales manager, laboratory technician)	Intermediate occupations in administrative, clerical, sales and service work (eg secretary, nursery nurse, salesman, computer operator)	Self-employed non-professionals (eg plumber ▼, driving instructor)	Other supervisors, craft and related workers (eg factory foreman, joiner)	Routine occupations in manufacturing and services (eg lorry driver ▼, traffic warden, assembly line worker)	Elementary occupations (eg fast food waiter, supermarket cashier, cleaner, labourer ▼)	Never worked, long-term unemployed, long-term sick

▲ Moves up a class ▼ Moves down a class

PRESENT SYSTEM

I Professional	II Managerial and technical	III (N) Skilled (non-manual)	III (M) Skilled (manual)	IV Partly-skilled	V Unskilled
(eg doctor, lawyer)	(eg engineer, sales manager)	(eg nurse, secretary)	(eg carpenter, plumber)	(eg lorry driver, waiter)	(eg labourer, street sweeper)
A B		C1 C2		D E	

N MAJOR'S dream of a less society remains just researchers commis- ned by his Government have found.

Mr Major pledged to do away with social class when he became Prime Minister in 1990 but a report published today recommends increasing the number of classes used to categorise the public in government documents.

Job security or lack of it leads to crucial class distinctions, says the professor in charge of the research. The report, commissioned by the Office for National Statistics in 1995, finds that the current classification of people according to six occupational groups is out of date and misleading. It proposes eight social classes, still based on occupation but with tighter descriptions and new categories.

The system takes into account the "underclass" of people who have never worked or are long-term unemployed or ill. It also splits ne of the most visible social roups in 1980s Britain, the illed manual workers own by market researchers C2s, whose support for argaret Thatcher kept the onservatives in power.

David Rose, Professor of ciology at Essex University d leader of the review, said: ohn Major liked to talk out a classless society, but if ything occupational class as become more significant as we learn to live with the flexible labour market.

"The demise of the unions and a job for life mean a person's relationship to their job is now a defining part of who they are." Professionals, employers and managers still had much greater job security than employees, leading to crucial class distinctions.

If the statistics office approves the changes, the revised structure should be ready for the 2001 census. Under current practice, people are classified into social groups according to their job. So, for example, professionals such as doctors and lawyers are in Class I, and unskilled labourers in Class V.

Technical and managerial occupations such as engineers form Class II, skilled non-manual workers such as secretaries or nurses make up Class III (N), skilled manual workers such as carpenters are Class III (M), and semi-skilled workers such as lorry drivers comprise Class IV.

Class indicators have been used by the Government since 1911 and the current model has been largely unchanged since 1921. Class III was divided into manual and non-manual workers in 1971.

The official classes are used as the building blocks for the A, B, C1, C2, D and E social class indicators used by advertisers, pollsters and market researchers. Classes A and B correspond to I and II, C1 and C2 to III (N) and III (M), and IV and V to D and E.

The review, carried out by the Economic and Social Research Council, suggests that these categories are too broad. It suggests eight classes, with new ones for the self-employed and the long-term unemployed, and dividing up skilled manual workers between several groups. Employers and managers in large firms would join professionals in Class 1, with smaller employers and "associate professionals" such as nurses and law firm staff going in Class 2.

Class 3 would largely replicate the present Class III N, including sales staff and secretaries, while Class 4 would be for self-employed non-professionals, such as driving instructors and carpenters. Class 5 would represent employed skilled manual workers and supervisors, with Class 6 made up of "routine occupations" such as lorry-drivers and traffic wardens. At the bottom come "elementary occupations" such as waiters, labourers and cleaners in Class 7, and the underclass in Class 8.

Professor Rose said that the self-employed and the non-employed could not fairly be included with any other category, and the poor employment rights experienced by unskilled waiters, labourers and cleaners, many of whom work on a casual basis, set them apart from other manual workers. The new class model would allow more accurate assessment of social trends, such as connections between health and class, he said. Market researchers and advertisers would do well to adopt the new categories. "The old system is no longer delivering results, as it is so hard to tell what the groupings signify," he said.

Guard recalls Dodi's anger over paparazzi

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

DODI FAYED instructed his driver to speed away from pursuing photographers in a car chase through Paris that took place just a few hours before the crash in which he and Diana, Princess of Wales, died, according to her bodyguard.

Trevor Rees-Jones, 29, the sole survivor of the accident, has told French police that Mr Fayed was annoyed to find a posse of paparazzi waiting when the couple landed at Le Bourget on the afternoon before the crash.

Mr Rees-Jones, who is suffering partial amnesia, told investigators that Mr Fayed old his driver to speed up to y to shake off the photographers during the drive from the airport into Paris. "Dodi asked the chauffeur to accelerate to lose the pursuing photographers," Mr Rees-Jones was quoted as saying.

The paparazzi, however, kept pace with the car carrying the Princess and her friend, and more were waiting when they arrived at the Ritz hotel, further angering Mr Fayed. "We had to push the journalists back. Dodi did not like the situation at all, and made his feelings known," Mr Rees-Jones told the Swiss newspaper *Blick*.

Later that night, with photographers again in pursuit, the couple sped away from the back door of the Ritz, with chauffeur Henri Paul at the wheel of the Mercedes. Minutes later, the car smashed at high speed into a pillar in the Pont de l'Alma underpass, killing Mr Fayed and Mr Paul and fatally injuring the Princess.

Mr Rees-Jones, who suffered chest, face and neck injuries, cannot remember anything of the immediate circumstances surrounding the crash, but his latest recollections shed further light on the state of mind of the car's occupants, which may prove crucial in the continuing judicial investigation.

Mr Paul was found to be well over the legal drink-driving limit and tests also revealed traces of powerful prescription drugs in his blood stream.

Lawyers question each other on sex, lies and videotape

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

LOVE affairs and stolen property at leading City law firms are exposed this week in a review of the kind of mergers and acquisitions that they would rather keep quiet.

A Christmas quiz in their monthly glossy magazine *Legal Business* asks questions such as: Where is the top-ten firm where two partners, both married (though not to each other) were caught on security camera? The security guard thought that it was the best blue movie that he had seen.

To protect the guilty, the magazine does not publish the answers to the questions. It is up to lawyers to try to guess the culprits as colleagues dive for cover. But the editor, Martha Klein, insists that all the gossip is genuine.

"We check the veracity of everything out and we know the answer in every case," she said. "It's picked up from lawyers and their clients as we chat with them throughout the year."

Lawyers, she says, claim that they hate gossip. "But this is the article they most look forward to all year."

There is a question about the senior partner of a top regional firm who has been banned from this year's Christmas bash after being found with his secretary under at table at an exclusive restaurant at last year's event.

Another asks: "Which American law firm in London is being investigated by the police for handling stolen goods after it snapped up bargain-priced law books from a shoplifter?"

Then there is the law firm which apparently mounted a secret surveillance camera on its drinks cabinet in the client dining rooms after three bottles of expensive brandy disappeared in as many weeks.

There is also avarice: a solicitor who nearly died in a crash, after falling asleep at the wheel, was reportedly greeted by colleagues with the question: "Who would have done your work if you had been killed?" And one senior partner is said to be having private lessons on improving his body language and curbing involuntary noises. His head reportedly snaps round to the left when he is lying.

Others are said to have nicknames such as "the flying fornicator" or "bedwetter Bob". Meanwhile, an author and marketer of scholarly legal works also has two sex manuals in his list of publications.

The magazine steadfastly refuses to confirm or deny if suggested answers are right. "We don't want any libel suits," Ms Klein joked, adding: "It is really that we don't want to embarrass anyone. It's just good fun."

NEWS IN BRIEF

British teenagers are top earners

British teenagers have a higher income than their counterparts in Germany, Italy and France, a survey shows. Euroquest questioned 10,000 teenagers and found that those in Britain earned a weekly average of £25.84, compared with £20.57 in Germany, £12.17 in France and £11.54 in Italy.

Some 75 per cent of British teenagers have a television in their bedroom, compared with 33 per cent of French teenagers. They also spent the most time on computers.

Asylum escapers

Nearly 7,000 out of 55,000 people seeking asylum in Britain have gone into hiding to evade deportation and are living as illegal immigrants, according to the Home Office. A spokesman said the figure is likely to go higher as checks are still being carried out.

Funicular plea

The World Wildlife Fund in Scotland, campaigning against plans for a funicular railway in the Cairngorms, has asked for £3 million of European money earmarked for the scheme to be used for other local developments if its objections are upheld.

Ill tidings

Medical staff need more training in how to break bad news to terminally ill patients. A study based at Castle Hill Hospital, Hull, found four out of five patients received little information about their prognosis and how they would be cared for in the future.

Cruelty to turkeys

Lax slaughter practices mean many Christmas turkeys suffer electric shocks before being stunned and some could even regain consciousness after having their necks cut and being prepared for plucking, a report by Compassion in World Farming says.

Rich picking

An acoustic guitar signed by Bob Dylan was bought for £6,000 in a charity auction run by a Bristol radio station. Anna Gale of Pilning bought the instrument as a Christmas present for her husband. The station, GWR, had expected it to sell for £2,000.

Man of the match

A father walked his daughter up the aisle, then married her himself. The Rev Owen Williams gave away his daughter Sue before conducting the service for her wedding to David Jackson at Christ Church, Great Ayton, North Yorkshire.

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Schools alert over 'date rape' drug

Daniel McGrory examines the threat to teenagers from spiked drinks

Girls can be unwilling to reveal their ordeal because often they have been taking part in under-age drinking

WARNINGS are being sent to schools about the increasing number of teenage girls who are being sexually attacked after being given "date rape" drugs that are freely available in Britain.

In the most recent incidents two girls aged 14 and 15 from the same school in the Borders were raped by a gang of boys after they were drugged. Both were too afraid to tell their parents because they were drugged while taking part in under-age drinking sessions.

Drug counsellors say they have evidence that teenage girls who have tried to buy Ecstasy in clubs and at all-night raves have been given tranquillisers and then raped.

Anne Hill, chief executive of the Scottish Schoolboards Association, which is sending out warnings to schools, said: "These girls think they are being big by trying to get Ecstasy, but they wouldn't know what the tablet looks like from a paracetamol.

"They look to everyone around them as though they are drunk and no one takes much notice when boys take them outside. After that the girls don't even know how many have had sex with them.

"They are afraid to tell their parents because often they should not have been at the club or drinking on a street corner. They don't know if they have got Aids or are pregnant, so we have sent warnings to schools. We also want teenagers to inform on those who drug girls."

The advice sent to girls at Scottish state schools warns them not to join in under-age drinking with boys that they do not know and trust.

Police are concerned that women could fall prey to having their drinks spiked by drugs such as Rohypnol, which is thought to have been used in hundreds of date rape attacks in America.

They warn women to be cautious when accepting drinks from strangers, especially if they are alone, and not to leave drinks unattended. Officers say that if after one drink a women starts to feel drunk or disorientated, she should seek help immediately from anyone around. If something does happen, women are advised to go to a police station as soon as possible so that a urine sample can be taken. Scotland Yard is training all officers who specialise in dealing with sex offence victims how to recognise the symptoms of the presence of Rohypnol.

Scotland Yard detectives refuse to say how many women have been assaulted after having their drinks spiked with the drug, and fear that publicity might encourage further attacks.

But David Macauley, Campaign Director of Scotland Against Drugs, said: "If you were to compose the perfect requirement for a date-rape drug that is hard for police or victims to prove, this is it. One side-effect for the victim is often amnesia. By the time she puts together the pieces of what happened, the drug can't be traced by the usual toxicology tests by police.

"We have to face the fact that, now it is here, Rohypnol is not going to go away. There is a debate about whether you should publish its presence as you fan the flames, but women have to be warned. A sad consequence is that women are bound to wary of the most innocent of interpersonal contact such as accepting a drink from a man you don't know."

Dr Macauley, who is a pharmacist, said: "At the moment it [Rohypnol] is coming from bogus prescriptions, and is cheap to buy on the black market. There are more victims than we think."

His Glasgow-based campaign group has evidence that other tranquillisers are also being used on young girls. They have been given a mixture of alcohol and temazepam and then raped. Girls have also been given diazepam, ephedrine and katamine. Police are also worried about white or pink tablets with an "S" logo on them that are a mix of strong sedatives and anaesthetic.

This week a new charity — the Roofie Foundation — is being launched to combat the misuse of Rohypnol and other tranquillisers. It is setting up a safe house for victims and a telephone helpline. Graham Rhodes, its director, said: "There are many more cases than anyone realises and the police admit it is often hard to prove. It actually heightens a woman's sex drive in some cases and she can thus appear a willing participant, which makes it still harder in court to prove that she was raped."

Roche, which manufactures Rohypnol in Britain, said that it had no plans to withdraw the drug from the UK market. A spokesman said: "We are extremely concerned at the possibility that one of our products might have been misused."

THE PURPLE 'DIAMOND' THAT CAUSES DROWSINESS

Rohypnol is a tiny, diamond-shaped purple tablet used for the short-term treatment of severe insomnia. It can also be used to induce sleep at unusual times and is a useful anaesthetic.

Rohypnol is a Roche brand name for flunitrazepam, one of a group of sleeping drugs regarded by doctors as having few adverse effects and being relatively safe in overdose. It works by depressing activity in the part of the brain that controls emotion. The drug blocks transmission of electrical impulses, reducing communication between brain cells. In large enough doses, this causes drowsiness. It is also prescribed to relieve back pain.

Rohypnol, which has the street nickname Roofie, is ten times more powerful than Valium. Slipped into a drink, it can induce a trance-like state within 15 minutes, lasting for 12 hours. Ground up in a drink, it is tasteless, colourless and odourless. Rohypnol leaves the bloodstream after 36 hours and is not detectable in urine after 72 hours.

Although Rohypnol is not on the NHS list of controlled drugs, it is easily available from private health clinics, costing £5 for 30. The drug is sold on the black market as a heroin substitute and many drug abusers are said to have begun their habit after using it.

Councillors on Merseyside have called for Rohypnol to be banned in Britain.

DES JENSON

Ms Moynihan with a patient at the Royal Marsden Hospital. She said men remained ignorant of cancer

Time to break the silence surrounding male cancer

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

By Anjana Ahuja

CANCER remains a taboo word among men, according to a sociologist specialising in the condition. Clare Moynihan, from the Institute of Cancer Research, says that health professionals collude with men in keeping quiet about the disease.

Although men are generally reticent about discussing medical matters, some are simply not given the opportunity to voice their concerns. In response, the Institute of Cancer Research in London launched the everyman campaign to highlight awareness of male cancers. This Christmas, as one of its two charity appeals, *The Times* is supporting its appeal for £40,000 to buy a gene sequencing machine, which will help to unravel the genetic basis of prostate cancer. The cancer is predicted to affect one in four men by 2018.

Ms Moynihan said: "Men tend not to talk to each other. There are magazines for men but not many read them. One of the men I talked to worked in a shipyard and said that if he took a health magazine to work he would be called a homosexual." Health professionals should take some blame, she says.

"Men often complain that their GPs send them packing. They also say specialists discuss medical matters in a very dry manner, as if they are describing the body as a piece of engineering. There is little discussion of emotions."

Ms Moynihan has spent 12 years gathering the opinions and attitudes of male cancer patients and of healthy men who have a relative affected by prostate or testicular cancer. Her work has been funded by the Bob Champion Trust and the Cancer Research Campaign. She has found that men know more about common genetic diseases than cancer, and can talk knowledgeably about the influence of genes and environment. But a startling ignorance of cancer, particularly prostate and testicular, remains.

Even if they do know about prostate cancer, they may not feel comfortable talking about it because some aspects, such as rectal examinations, are hard to deal with. The answer, Ms Moynihan thinks, is to increase publicity.

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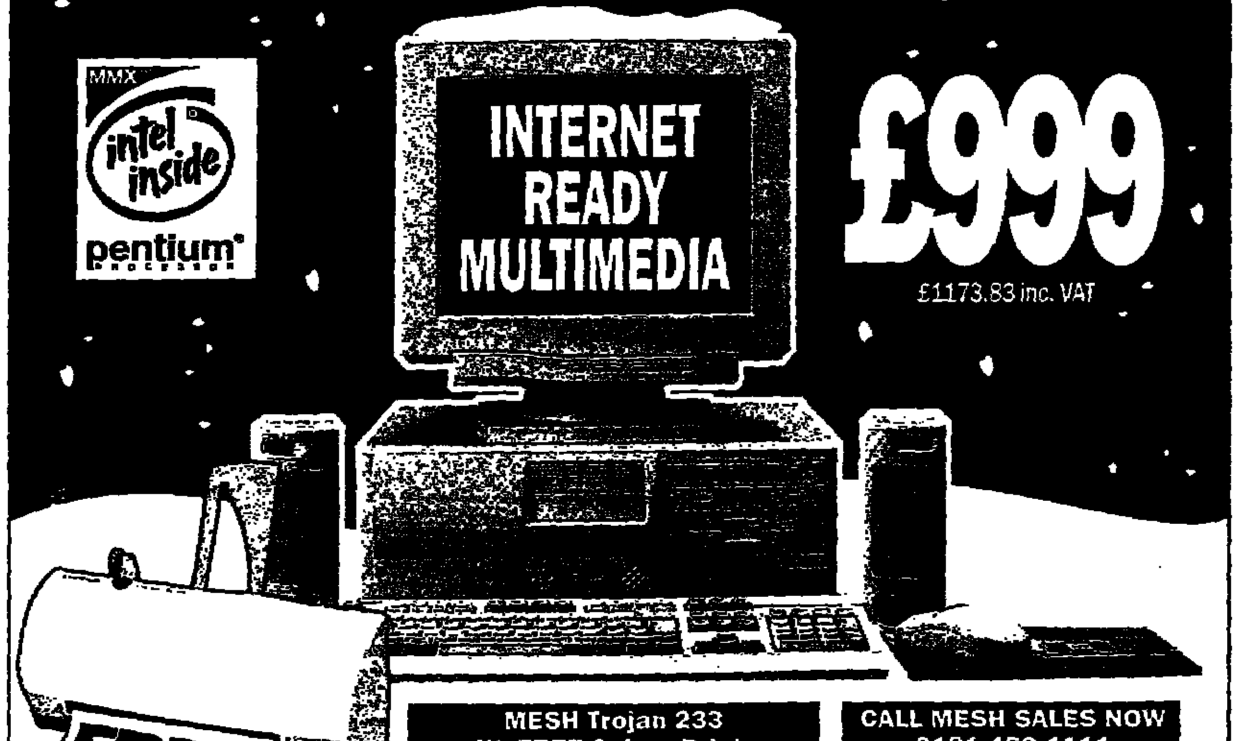

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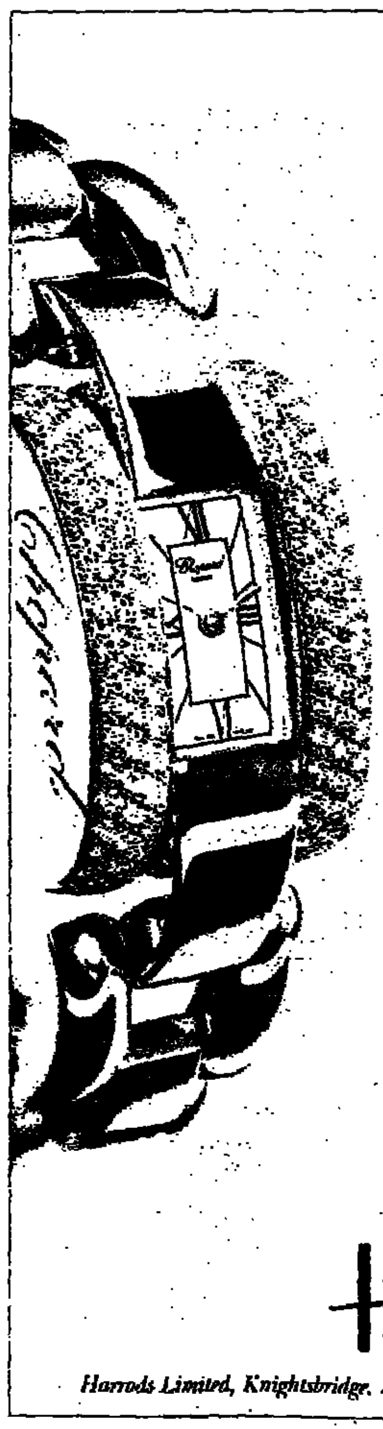

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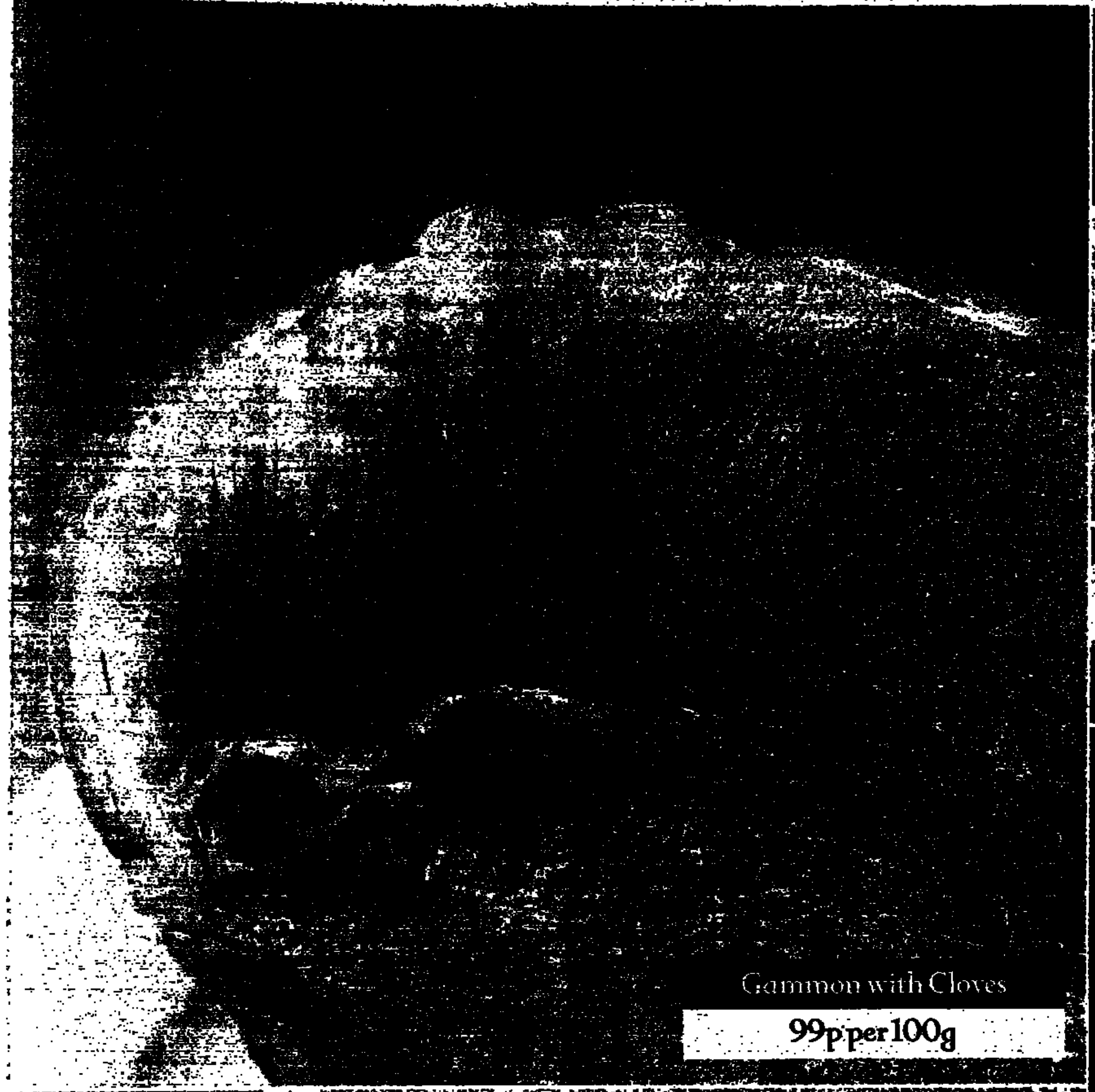

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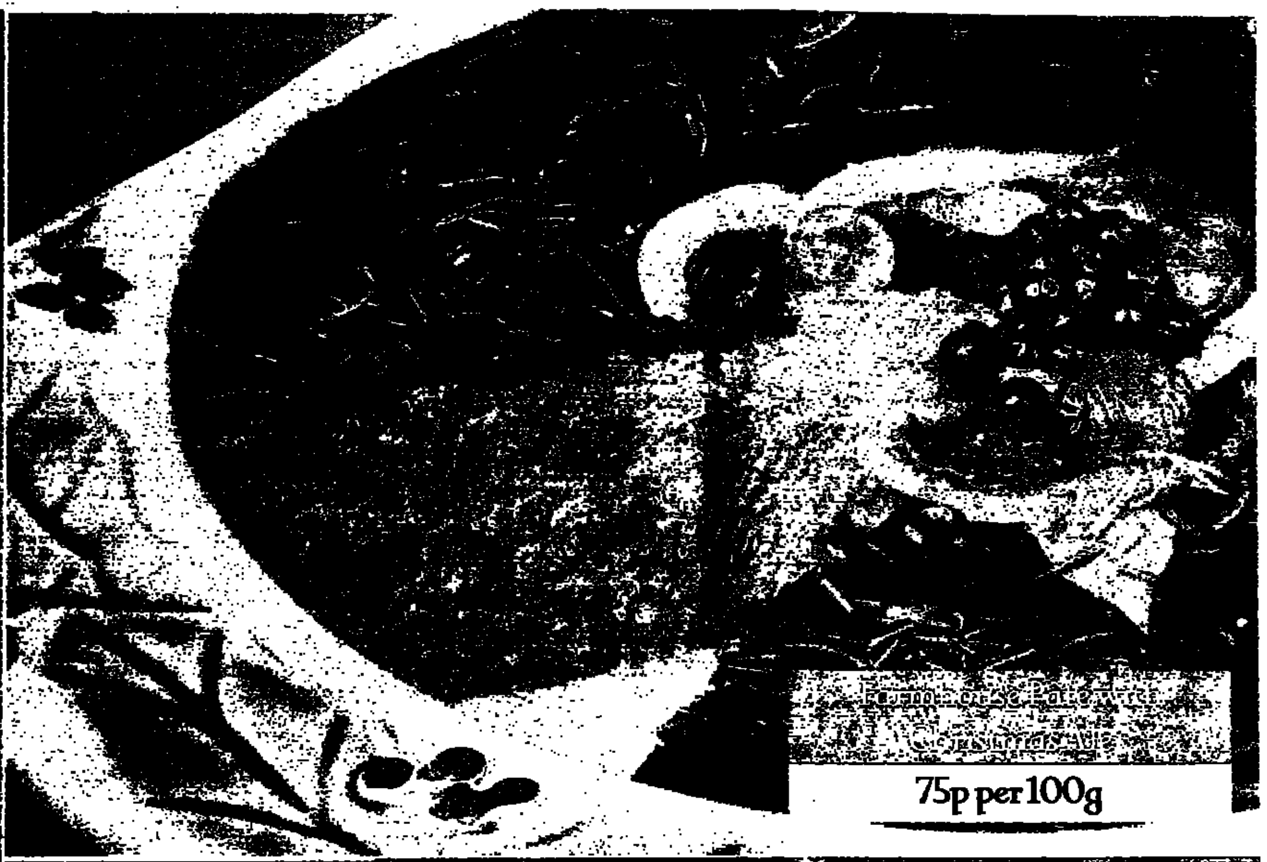

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Rhinos will pay price of Mugabe farm seizures

Policy is a blow to wildlife and economy, **Sam Kiley** in Wedza, Zimbabwe, says

SUNJAI and Chubagu, two young black rhinos, will begin their journey to the wild this week. But if President Mugabe of Zimbabwe goes ahead with plans to seize more than 1,500 mainly white-owned commercial farms, they will be the last beneficiaries of Africa's largest and most successful breeding programme for the endangered species.

Bred on Imire game ranch, 50 miles east of Harare, the youngsters represent the best hopes Zimbabwe has of preserving its population of only 230 rhinos. Imire has been gazetted for government acquisition on a list of 1,503 properties to be "redistributed" among "indigenous" people. The Government has admitted that ordinary people will not be able to afford to run them, and ministers say the farms will be handed over to black Zimbabweans who have enough money to keep them going — former ministers, for example. In short, there are free farms for the boys in Mr Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front).

Useless for arable agriculture, Imire was turned over to game several years ago by Norman Travers in a bold experiment to preserve the rhinos and establish a herd of African elephants trained to work the land. The tiny rhinos are the product of an accelerated breeding system.

Now Mr Mugabe wants to shut down Imire, without compensation for the land itself and with only a vague undertaking to pay for "improvements". Australian, American and British donors say scrapping the rhino-breeding and the elephant-training programme will be disastrous for wildlife and tourism.

Moreover, experts forecast economic disaster if the land seizures go ahead. Panic on the local stock exchange has sent the Zimbabwe dollar plummeting as capital has poured out of the country.

"The advice is simple, get your money out and then get yourself out, before Mugabe grabs some other part of the economy," said Dr Richard Saunders, a Harare-based Canadian economist.

Most of the farms listed for seizure changed hands after independence in 1980 — and 83 of them are owned by blacks. "Playing the race card after 17 years impresses no one and simply shows up Mugabe for what he is," said Morgan Tsvangirai, secretary-general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions.

A handful of white commercial farmers have threatened to poison their wells and tear down buildings. Most are trying to offer Mr Mugabe a face-saving alternative. "It does not make sense to smash an industry which produces 50 per cent of Zimbabwe's export earnings and gross domestic product," said John Travers, who now manages his father's tobacco farm next door to Imire.

"Land held by absentee landlords and poorly utilised properties should be handed over to the people. We should all contribute 10 to 15 per cent of our land, and offer a commitment to help the new owners to farm it commercially. That way we would add to growth, not strangle it."

The concept could produce the 4 million hectares Mr Mugabe wants for "redistribution", and has widespread support within the Commercial Farmers' Union. But it has one major flaw: it would mean handing plots of land to ordinary people. Senior Zanu members are likely to choke on that.

SAM KILEY

Mark Travers, front left, feeds a rhino while his grandfather, Norman, and mother, Barbara, watch over the fence. Gill Travers holds Nigel on the animal's back. They run Africa's biggest breeding project for the endangered species

Mandela hints at Inkatha merger

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT Mandela yesterday raised the prospect of a merger between his ruling African National Congress and long-time political rivals in the Inkatha Freedom Party on the eve of the ANC's 50th national conference. Mr Mandela will stand down as party leader at the gathering.

In an interview with the South African Broadcasting Corporation before one of the most critical conferences in the ANC's 85-year history, Mr Mandela said a merger with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Zulu-led Inkatha would be a "very progressive development", as South Africans needed to speak with one voice.

Referring to private talks he had held with Chief Buthelezi, Mr Mandela also said he would be happy if the Inkatha leader were offered the deputy presidency.

"It is not a quesiton of black unity, but the unity of the entire country that will be the guiding principle," Mr Mandela said. "We are busy with the task of uniting the entire nation. That's why we have the Government of National Unity."

UN flies relief to Somali flood victims

FROM DAVID ORR
IN BARDERA

SUPPLIES airlifted yesterday to the village of Salagle were the first its people had received since floods devastated southern Somalia six weeks ago.

Food, blankets and plastic sheeting were flown to the 850 families in the village about 25 miles south of Bardera by United Nations helicopter.

"Most of our village was submerged when the Jubba River burst its banks," said Mohamed Omar Habdi, who works for the World Vision aid agency. "Now the waters are receding, but mosquitoes are breeding and causing malaria. Our underground stores of cereals have been destroyed and our camels have died."

Southern Somalia is only now starting to recover from the worst floods in the region for more than three decades. Nearly 1,800 people died in the disaster; most were drowned but some were taken by crocodiles or died of snake bite.

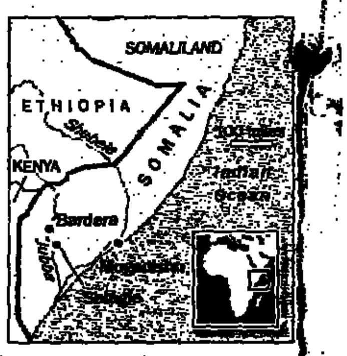
Now that the water level is falling, most of the reported deaths are from malaria, diarrhoea or respiratory infections.

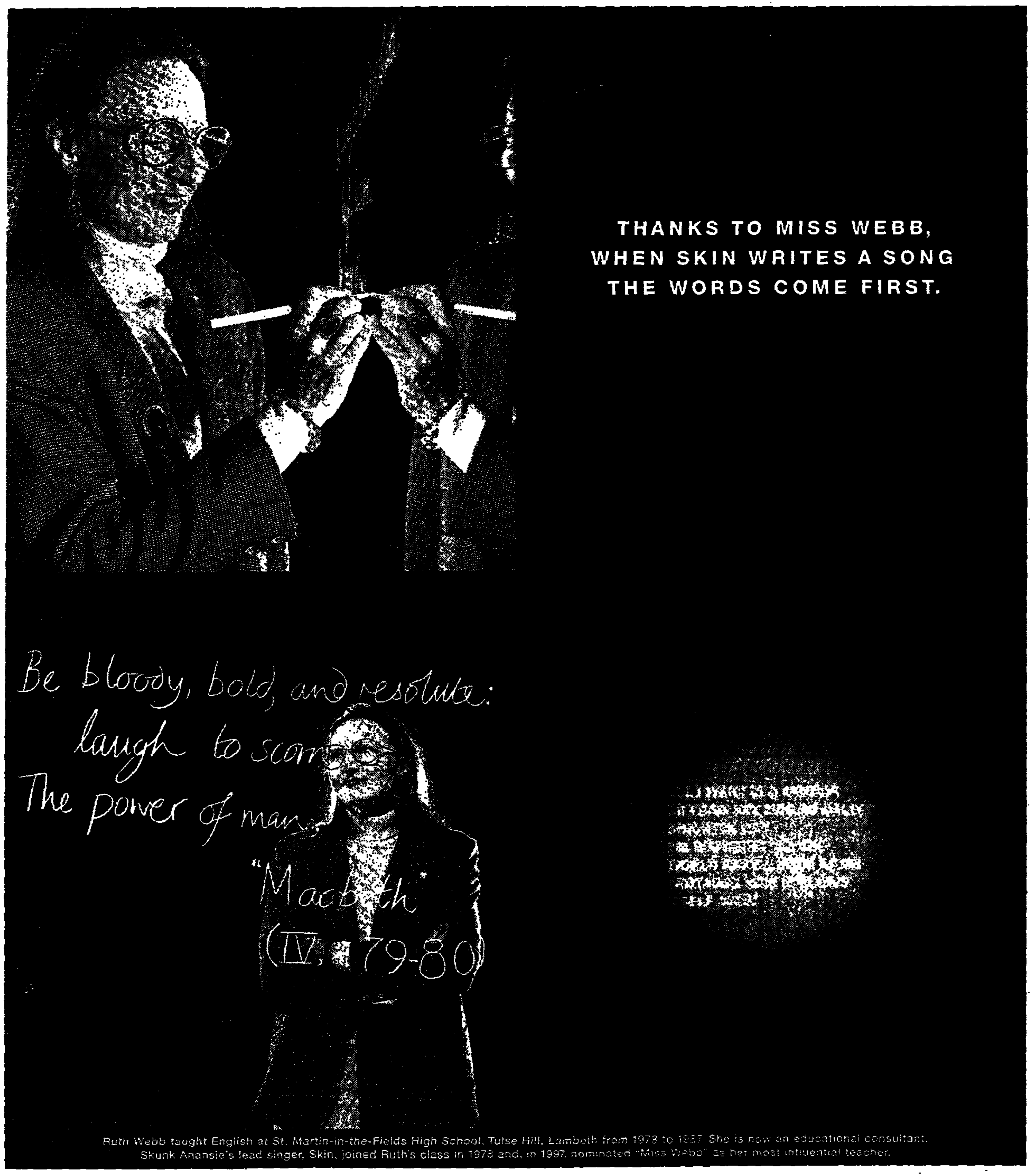
The UN has two Bulgarian Mi8 helicopters and 21 Norwegian boats as part of a $13 million (£7.5 million) emergency operation. The helicopters fly shuttle missions from northern Kenya.

"In the last three days we've reached 2,500 families with relief flights," says Roger Carter of Unicef in Bardera.

Bardera is a model of relative peace in a country plagued by anarchy and faction fighting. Six years after the overthrow of the dictator, Siad Barre, Somalia remains without central government. It is left up to the resources and ingenuity of local warlords to fend for the people living under their protection.

In Bardera and its hinterland, that role has fallen to Omar Haji and his Somali National Front. His militiamen patrol the decaying town and the airstrip which lies on its outskirts. Unlike much of the country, Bardera has its own court, its own jail and its own police force.

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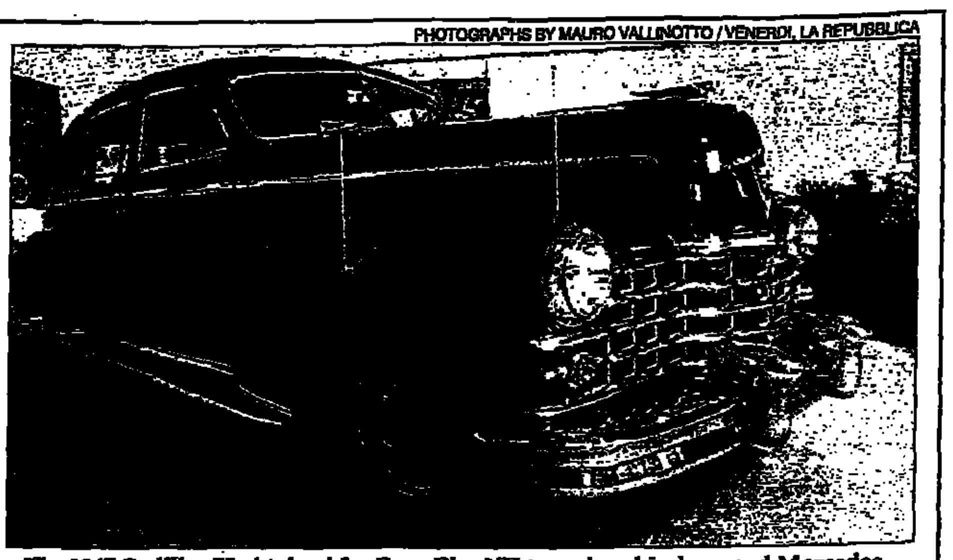


The 1947 Cadillac 75 obtained for Pope Pius XII to replace his damaged Mercedes

Popes' divine drives on show

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE Vatican's collection of papal cars has gone on show for the first time, revealing that although the present emphasis is on bullet-proof security, the early 20th-century successors of St Peter had a Mr Toad-like predeliction for luxury, style and speed.

The exhibition at the Motor Fair at Pordenone, in the Venetian hinterland near Udine, brings together a remarkable range of lovingly restored Citroëns, Mercedes, Chryslers and Cadillacs, all with the papal insignia on their doors and flying the Vatican's white and yellow pennant. The display is drawn from the Vatican garages and private collections.

For many, the star of the show will be the Lictoria Sex built by Citroën Italiana in 1929 for Pius XI — or at least its interior, which was restored last year, minus a gold clock that had mysteriously disappeared. The back seat contains an ornate wooden throne that is upholstered in crimson velvet.

Pope Pius XII switched to "big and solid" American cars, such as the Cadillac 75 obtained by the Vatican in 1947, after his Mercedes was damaged by a crush of onlookers.

Paul VI (1963-78) introduced the first "Popemobile", a white Toyota off-roader, in 1976. But it is the present Pope, John Paul II, who has made the Popemobile a symbol of the papacy. In March, he acquired a Mercedes 500.

Prosecutor says French harbour war criminals in Bosnia

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE chief prosecutor at the Bosnian war crimes tribunal in The Hague has accused France of allowing the south-east sector of Bosnia under its control to become a haven for indicted war criminals.

Louise Arbour, the outspoken Canadian judge leading the prosecution of war criminals in the former Yogoslavia and Rwanda, claimed France had consistently failed to act against known war crime suspects in Bosnia and accused Paris of pursuing a "deliberate policy" of non-cooperation with the court.

She contrasted Britain's energetic backing of the tribunal with French foot-dragging, and added that most of the accused Bosnian war criminals still at liberty are living in the French-controlled sector in the belief that French troops will not arrest them. "They currently feel totally safe there," Justice Arbour told *Le Monde* newspaper.

The charges have provoked a furious response from the French Foreign Ministry, which insisted that "the allegation is baseless".

"Without ambiguity, France wants all criminals to be handed over to the tribunal . . . It believes everything must be done towards this goal, and fully participates in efforts to achieve it, as much as other countries involved," the ministry said in statement. The judge will be asked to justify her remarks when she meets Hubert Védrine, the French Foreign Minister, in Paris today. In her rebuke, she said France had hampered the work of the tribunal by refusing to allow French officers who served in Bosnia to testify and taking too long to supply written testimonies. "Hence the conclusion that this is a deliberate policy. It is unacceptable," she said.

She sharply criticised Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, for suggesting that the war crimes tribunal was little more than a show of justice. "That is an expression of contempt for more than 200 witnesses who have testified to this international institution, some of them with considerable courage, taking into account their precarious situation when they return home without protection. To suggest that they took part in a show is contemptible and shocking."

Praising Britain's more robust attitude, Justice Arbour noted that British soldiers had arrested the accused war criminal Milan Kovacevic in Prijedor last July, enabling his extradition to The Hague to face trial. But she accused US troops of failing to pursue indicted war criminals with sufficient energy, but said Washington had provided financial and political backing.

Just 20 indicted war Bosnian criminals are currently in custody in the Hague, while a further 75 are still at large. The French Government flatly rejected the charge that it had shirked its duty, insisting that rules set by the alliance on the arrest of war crime suspects had been followed to the letter by French soldiers. "France has been working for peace in this crisis without interruption, and the French army has paid heavily, with 70 soldiers killed and 700 wounded," the *Foreign Ministry said.*

Italians mourn 'Prince' of Fiat

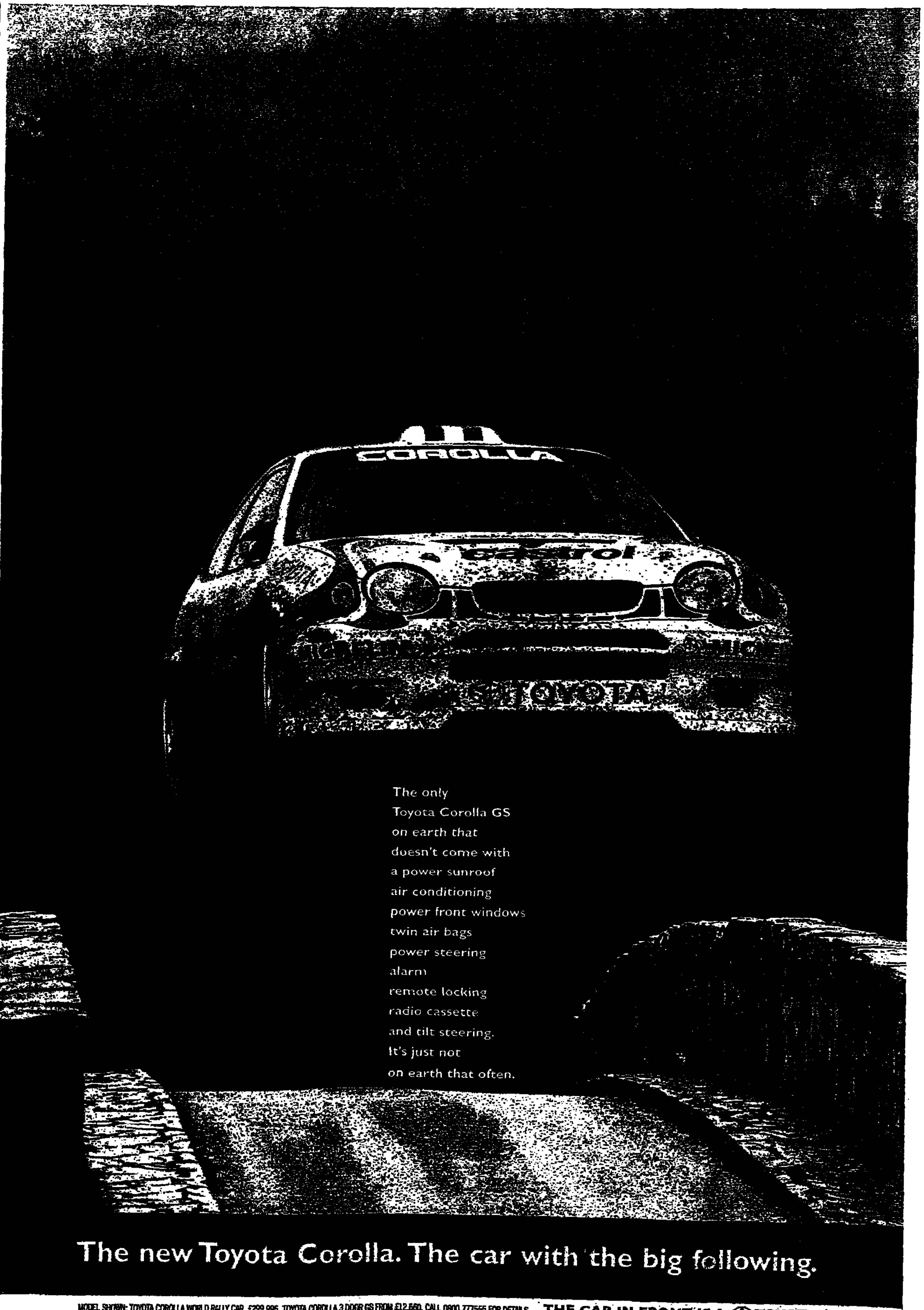
ome: In an outpouring of ational sorrow, Italy yesterry mourned Giovanni Alrto Agnelli, the 33-year-old ir to the Fiat empire and the sest Italian equivalent to a own Prince (Richard Owen ites). His death on Satur- of cancer drew comparis with that of Diana, ncess of Wales, and threw y's biggest private comy into a succession crisis.

gnor Agnelli, a shy and est man, was buried in family tomb at a cemetery Turin yesterday in a te funeral. "The Agnellis the uncrowned Kings of said *La Repubblica*. "It not be easy to find r Agnelli to take over."

anni "Gianni" Agnelli, 76-year-old honorary an of Fiat, who had Giovanni Alberto as his heir two years ago, said that his nephew — head of the Piaggio scooter branch of Fiat, makers of the Vespa — had been an exceptional young man with all the qualities to rise to the top.

Agnelli: death creates Fiat succession crisis

Obituary, page 20



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Iran's youth lead drive to heal the rift with America

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN THE ELBURZ MOUNTAINS, NORTH OF TEHRAN

IN THE most forthright call for better relations with the United States since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran's moderate new President said yesterday that he wanted to hold a dialogue with "the great American people".

The call by President Khatami will go down well with a majority of Iranians who have long waited for a leader strong enough to shrug off the anti-Western legacy of the late Ayatollah Khomeini.

Whether it is pop music, fashion, fast food or soft drinks, young Iranians are fascinated by the country they have been encouraged to hate. Winston and Marlboro are the cigarettes they prefer, while the top hotels accept payment only in American currency.

Announcing plans to make an historic address to Americans in the "not-too-distant future", President Khatami told a Tehran news conference: "I hope that as such dialogues, such thoughtful dialogues, increase, we shall get closer to peace."

But he also accused the American political class of holding up the process towards a better relationship and of being backward in its understanding of the modern world.

Khatami: looking for dialogue with US

The US embodies what the young in particular long for: colour, excitement and personal freedom. Few have any time for the lurid anti-Western rhetoric beamed out by the state-run media that is still controlled by Mr Khatami's hardline opponents.

In the snow-covered mountains north of Tehran, where the young come to enjoy the crisp air and to flirt, middle-class women wear baseball caps under their scarves while men sport Nikes and T-shirts emblazoned with the names of American rock groups. A world apart, in squalid southern Tehran, families who cannot understand English cluster around illegal satellite dishes to watch programmes like *Baywatch* and *The Bold and the Beautiful*.

JAMSHID BAIRAMI / AFP

Young Iranian women in colourful chadors performing a dance in Tehran at the weekend opening of the Islamic games for women

"It's sad that most Americans swallow their Government's propaganda about Iran being the world's worst bogeyman while so few of us accept the propaganda we hear about America," said Mohsen, 52, an Iranian engineer recently returned after 16 years in California, home to a large expatriate Iranian community. It is to the US that many young Iranians insist they would like to emigrate if hardliners succeed in blocking Mr Khatami's reforms. Their grievances are offered unsolicited in places like the mountain resorts north of Tehran, where young women come in the hope of meeting future husbands. "There are so few places we can meet men freely," said Somaya, an accountant who at 27 is worried about being left on the shelf. "Most men want to marry women who are under 25." Her friend, Parissa, 26, complains that even if they can date, other problems remain. "Men have big financial problems if they want to marry. Most can't afford a car or the rent for a house and many don't have jobs."

With 40 per cent of Iran's 60 million population aged 15 or under, the Government is keenly aware it has to address the needs for housing, work and entertainment. But the old guard has struggled to tackle the problems.

Charitable religious foundations frequently hand out dowries to thousands to enable them to marry in mass ceremonies, and Friday prayer leaders urge parents to reduce their financial demands to enable young people to marry early, saying that sexual frustration may lead them astray. One ayatollah recently railed against the growing number of hymen-intact operations which, technically, at least, restore a woman's virginity. Another is still remembered for his tirade against masturbation. "If a young man satisfies his urge and sins, no doctor can cure him," warned Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi. "It will affect his eyes, his nerves and many of his body organs."

Mr Khatami's tenure has already fostered a freer social climate. The dreaded *baseej*, gun-toting moral vigilantes who monitor levels of modesty, were conspicuously absent in the mountain resorts this week.

Writer puts damper on Gore love story

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A CLAIM that Al and Tipper Gore, the American Vice-President and his wife, were models for the lovers in the three-hankie film *Love Story* was disputed yesterday.

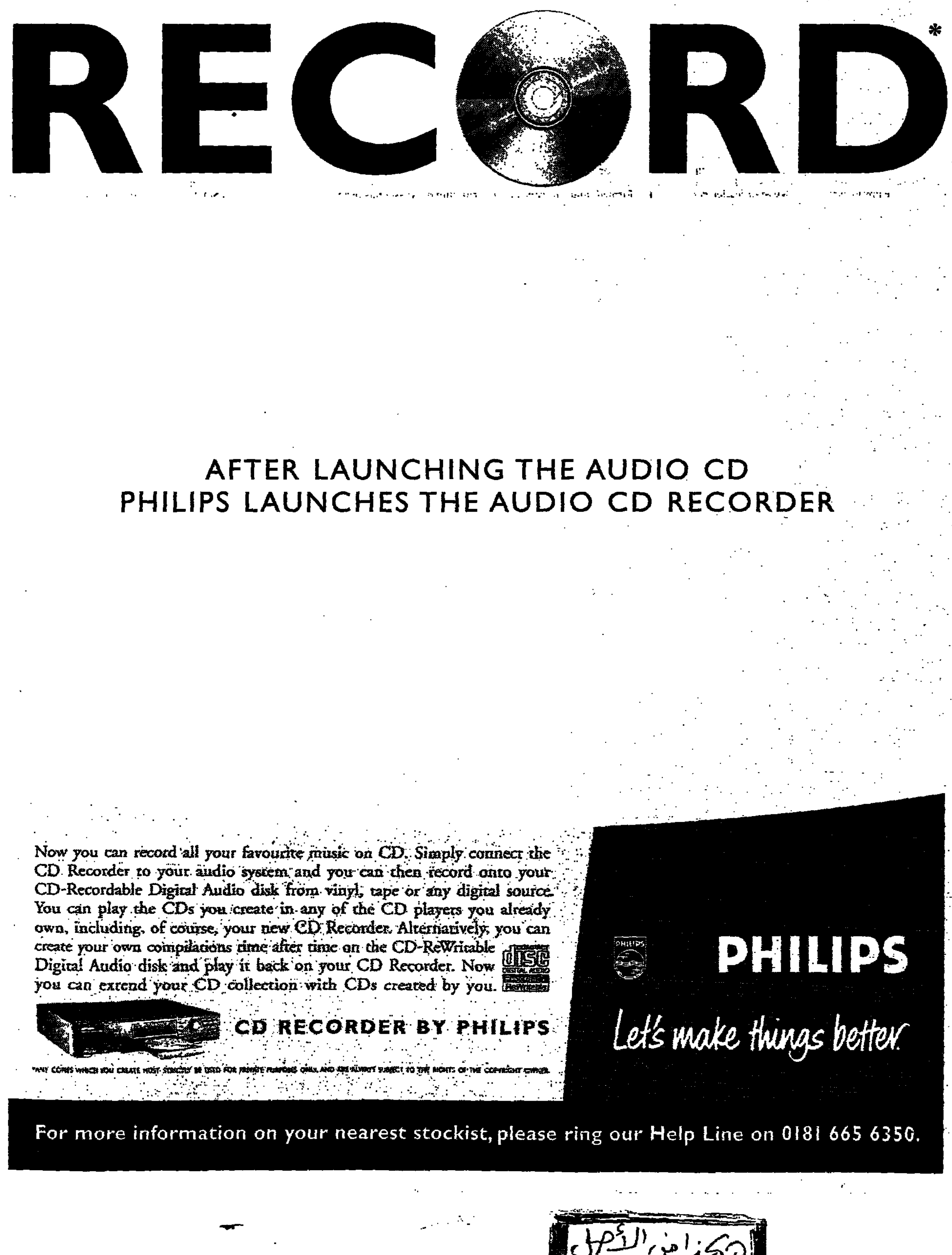
Erich Segal, author of the book on which the film was based, said the claims were only half true. The character of the preppy Harvard ice-hockey player, played by Ryan O'Neal, was modeled on both Mr Gore and his Harvard room mate, the actor Tommy Lee Jones.

It was Mr Jones who inspired the athlete with a poet's heart, while the part attributed to Mr Gore was only the character's controlling father, who pressured him to follow in his footsteps, Mr Segal told *The New York Times*. Mr Gore did follow his father in becoming a US senator. Ali MacGraw's character of Jenny Cavilleri, a free-spirited musician who dies at the end, was not based on Mrs Gore, according to Mr Segal. "I knew her only as Al's date," he said.

Mr Segal said he was "befuddled" by a report in last week's *Time* magazine quoting Mr Gore as saying he and his wife were the inspirations for the couple in the film, which produced the oft-repeated line: "Love means never having to say you're sorry."

Certainly no one was apologising yesterday. Mr Gore's spokeswoman said he did not "mis-speak" during his interview with a *Time* reporter on his plane, but he may have been misheard. Mr Segal said Mr Gore had told him the whole thing was a misunderstanding.

After the campaign fundraising affair, the perception that under Mr Gore's wooden exterior beat the heart of a romantic hero might have stood him in good stead as he gears up for a presidential bid in 2000.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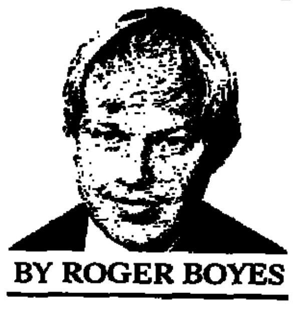
Defence chief fights rearguard action against swastikas in the barracks

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

The German Army is in uproar. Generals and colonels have turned on their political leadership — that is, on Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister — and demanded to know why they are not being protected against what they see as a media campaign to smear the military as a nest of Nazis.

The minister, in turn, is furious that commanding officers have not done more to weed out right-wing extremists, while ordinary Germans are gaping in amazement. The Bundeswehr was established in 1955 as a strictly non-political yet democratically sensitive institution. German soldiers were supposed to be "citizens in uniform", subject to the usual discipline but able to register their dissent. Conscientious objection became a boom sector.

Now this careful construct is crumbling. The army is becoming a political football. Each day brings word of new cases of neo-Nazi activity. Today's *Spiegel* magazine reports that officer cadets made anti-Semitic comments during a visit to a former concentration camp. German soldiers in Croatia have been discovered allegedly shouting "Heil Hitler".

This caps many months of disclosures which were initially dismissed by the minister as "individual aberrations". Off-duty soldiers recorded scenes of mock torture; others drunkenly celebrated Hitler's birthday. A neo-Nazi historian, Manfred Roeder, having served eight years in jail for helping to set refugee centres on fire, was deemed a suitable lecturer for the staff academy. Army surplus vehicles were made available for his pet project, the re-Germanisation of eastern Prussia.

The anger of the commanders was vented last week at a meeting of 130 generals and colonels in Cologne. They protested against Herr Rühe's ousting of the divisional commander in Leipzig, Major-General Michael von Scotti.

It was a routine posting, says the ministry. His fellow commanders know better: the general's removal almost certainly marks the beginning of a purge. Their anger is misplaced. According to the Bundeswehr doctrine of "inner leadership", the generals should have put their own house in order. Now the army's reputation is so badly damaged that Herr Rühe will have to go well beyond the promised parliamentary investigation. He will have to unleash sociologists to examine how deeply extreme-right ideas have penetrated the barrack rooms.

The minister may have to introduce some form of political screening to prevent neo-Nazi sympathisers entering the army in the first place: that would be a constitutionally dubious step but might, in the end, be the only measure to keep the army pure at heart. German defence ministers are usually shot down — Helmut Schmidt, the former Chancellor, is the only one to have flourished — and it is the most vulnerable of Cabinet portfolios. Yet, until now, Herr Rühe seemed to be doing well. But his greatest successes have turned out to be his greatest weaknesses. He merged a Warsaw Pact army, the East German, with the Bundeswehr in a master stroke of unification. And he coaxed the public to accept the idea of sending German combat troops abroad.

But the merger with the East threw many soldiers out of work — numbers fell from 600,000 to 340,000 in a few years — and has made the army seem an uncertain career.

He then created an elite force within the army, breaking with the postwar tradition. Special units have to be pampered even at a time of scarce resources, and they have to be given back traditions, models of German soldiers who have successfully fought abroad.

That spells the end of the citizen in uniform. Conscripts have become second-class citizens within the army. On tank manoeuvres they shout "Bang!" through megaphones to save ammunition. The money has either been scratched away for the euro, the Eurofighter or the elite crisis reaction force.

The army does not just need to be re-educated: it has to work out a new social purpose that goes beyond postwar democratisation. The problem started when Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, said Germans should be allowed to honour their war dead — that there was suffering and heroism on the German side, too. For four decades Germans were educated to believe they had a "good" and a "bad" history. Now the distinction is fuzzy: it is left to commanders to interpret history as they wish, with no social limits defined. That is why swastikas are appearing in barrack rooms.

Blair battle over euro threatens to sour presidency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

BRITAIN'S turn at the European Union presidency is heading for a bumpy start next month after an ill-tempered summit in Luxembourg at which Tony Blair picked what was widely deemed a futile fight with France over the euro and irritated Germany and other core states.

The sour aftermath of Mr Blair's day-long battle for a seat at the inner council on the single currency clouded the main business of the year-end summit, which ended on Saturday night with a decision to push the EU's frontiers eastwards to take in Cyprus and ten states from the former communist bloc. Under the firm guidance of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, the EU put aside differences and agreed to two tiers of candidate states. This cleared the way for Britain to start entry negotiations next spring with the first six — Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus.

However, Britain was handed a diplomatic headache over Turkey, which was rejected from all membership talks despite a 34-year-old application. A climbdown by Greece enabled the leaders to call Ankara to a grand Europe conference in London in March, an effective consolation prize. But, angered by the EU's conditions for Turkish reforms, Mesut Yilmaz, the Prime Minister, yesterday dismissed the invitation, saying "it has no importance for us".

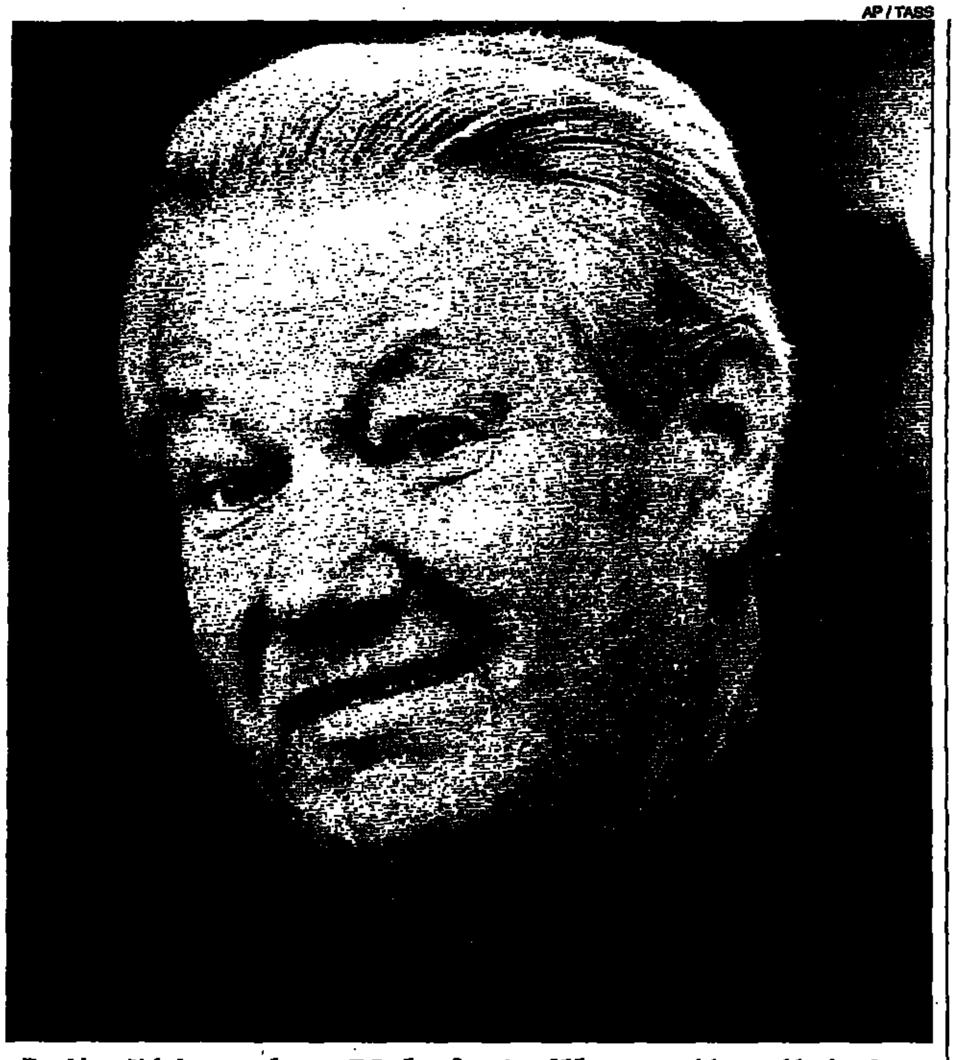
Mr Blair depicted his fight for a seat at the future "Euro-X" council as an example of the new clout that his Government enjoys as an enthusiastic EU member. However, the Prime Minister was held to have won at best a pyrrhic victory in the bout for inclusion in Euro-X. He claimed a triumph because the 11 likely members had agreed to discuss economic matters of common interest among all 15 EU members, including the "outs" — Britain, Greece, Denmark and Sweden. But the "ins" made clear that they could discuss whatever they liked in their informal circle provided they later opened the issue to full debate.

Senior officials from Germany and the Benelux states, as well as France, were scathing over what they saw as a British performance that smacked of John Major's outings in last year's beef war. Mr Blair was faulted for wasting time over an issue that he could not win. The Germans and the Dutch, who had long opposed France's campaign to invest the euro council with real power, were annoyed that Britain had played into French hands by inflating the importance of the new body.

Luxembourg underlined another problem for the British presidency — the poor performance of the Government's image-managers when it comes to other EU states. At Luxembourg and other Euro-gatherings since the Government took power, the Prime Minister's team have alienated foreign journalists with a spin-doctor style that varies between aggressive and contemptuous. Many EU journalists are wondering whether the Government's briefers will manage to shift to the required neutrality when presenting the work of the presidency.

Tony Blair, page 20

AP / TASS



President Yeltsin yesterday at the Barvikha government health resort outside Moscow, where he is recuperating from a respiratory infection

Yeltsin 'still in control'

(Robin Lodge writes). The hoarse-voiced Russian leader complained that he still felt unwell and weak, but said that he was working for about four hours a day, was well informed and in control of events. Mr Yeltsin, who was admitted on Wednesday, expected he would take about ten days to recover. "The doctors say it is a normal virus. It's the one going round Moscow. I am a Muscovite so I caught it." Meanwhile, most day-to-day running of Russia has been assumed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister.

Irate Egypt pushes for extradition of 'massacre exiles'

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN CAIRO

BRITAIN and Egypt held top-level talks yesterday on the international fight against terrorism after the Luxor massacre and Egyptian accusations that Britain harbours exiles who masterminded the attack.

David Blatherwick, the British Ambassador to Egypt, yesterday called on Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, to brief him on security co-operation and on proposed changes in the law to limit the ability of exiles in Britain to raise money and plan terrorist operations overseas.

In an interview after the meeting, Mr Moussa called on Britain to stop the flow of money from Islamic radicals in London to terrorist groups in Egypt, and to ban preachers in British mosques calling for the assassination of foreign leaders. Egypt has blamed the Luxor massacre on terrorists funded and encouraged from abroad, and identified Britain as the main centre for radicals plotting assassinations.

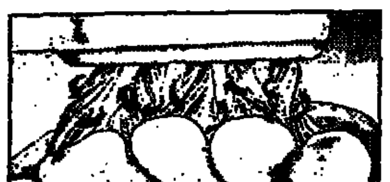
Official spokesmen said Britain and some European countries were deliberately ignoring international pledges to stamp out terrorism, signed by John Major, President Clinton and world leaders at Sharm el Sheikh in Sinai after terrorist massacres in Israel.

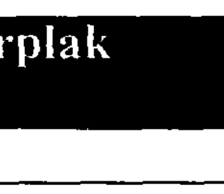
Mr Moussa said all 55 nations at last week's Tehran summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, including Iran, were aghast at the harm that terrorist action in the name of Islam was doing to their religion.

Europeans did not need any advice on terrorism or special pleading from Cairo, he told *The Times* in an interview. The West saw in the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York the danger of harbouring terrorist exiles. He was outraged by reports that £2.5 million had come from exiles in Britain to the outlawed Gamaa al-Islamiya — linked to the Luxor massacre.

Last week Egypt posted on the Internet the names of 14 terrorists it wants to arrest and denounced the presence in Britain of three of them. It has been rebuffed in attempts to have them extradited, and yesterday Cairo's top spokesman accused Britain of hypocrisy in harbouring instigators of the Luxor killings while making vigorous efforts to extradite from Libya the two men it wants to try for the Lockerbie bombing.

Egypt is still outraged and frustrated by the Luxor massacre, which dealt a devastating blow to its £2 billion tourist industry. Hotels and shops in the ancient city report a 90 per cent drop in business and many people face ruin.





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Market turmoil blights start of Asian summit

A chastened Mahathir has toned down his rhetoric, writes **James Pringle**

ASIA'S financial turmoil hung over the start of the largest-ever regional summit of South-East and East Asian leaders yesterday, amid warnings that there was no quick fix for the currency crisis.

In addition to leaders from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), the gathering included Japan, China and South Korea, with some leaders voicing the view that, if Chinese markets were affected by the turmoil in Asian financial markets, the region's problems would have world repercussions.

The Malaysian Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is hosting the gathering, confessed that he was scared to say anything in case the currency markets slid further. This is because unguarded statements by the Malaysian leader have been blamed by international investors for sparking panic on world markets.

Aware of this accusation, Dr Mahathir, 71, had clearly toned down his rhetoric at a weekend news conference. He had earlier blamed a possible Jewish "agenda" behind the financial crisis afflicting East Asia's so-called tiger economies. At the weekend, he limited himself to saying: "I feel like a man who is stretched a bit more every time he does not answer properly."

He declined to express his views on who or what lies behind the region's market turmoil.

Dr Mahathir asked: "Dare I say anything against the Western world? When I did in the past, it was a painful experience for me."

He has been in office for 16 years and some say he should step aside in favour of the Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, who is also Finance Minister. In a recent interview, Mr Anwar was much more moderate than his leader, saying: "We shouldn't be wasting our time pointing fingers. Malaysians need to have resolve and to overcome this crisis instead of blaming everyone."

Mahathir: smiling in face of adversity

On Saturday, Dr Mahathir proposed that the Asean countries, including the private sector, should buy cheaper goods from each other instead of importing from countries whose currencies had appreciated. Increased trade would help the economies to recover faster, he said.

The important gathering comes amid fears for the health of President Suharto of Indonesia, although the country's Foreign Minister, Ali Alatas, said here yesterday that the President's health was improving.

President Jiang Zemin of China was among the leaders who arrived yesterday for a summit banquet along with the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, and his South Korean counterpart, Koh Kun.

In talks last night, Dr Mahathir and President Jiang agreed that International Monetary Fund packages totalling more than $100 billion (£61.7 billion) for ailing Asian economies had not settled the crisis.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister, Abdullah Badawi, was asked what would happen if the financial contagion sweeping East Asia spreads to China, which has until now been largely immune. "If China gets a problem, then it will be very big," he said. "Not just these countries in the neighbourhood, but countries across the globe would be affected."

Asian crisis, page 48

North 'funds poll bid'

Seoul: North Korea has lent its support to a leading candidate to become the South's next President after the December 18 election, according to an American clergyman who recently visited the beleaguered Communist state (Jennifer Veale writes).

The disclosure by the Rev Kim Young Hoon, an American-Korean, has outraged Kim Dae-Jung, 74, an opposition candidate and former dissident who has suffered for decades from "Red-baiting" by political opponents. It comes as fears grow that South Korea will be forced to default on nearly $20 billion (£12 billion) in external debt despite a $57 billion rescue loan package from the International Monetry Fund.

The clergyman held a press conference in Tokyo at the weekend claiming that Kim Pyong Sik, the North's Vice-President, had donated money to Kim Dae Jung's campaign.

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE / AP

Joe Fontaine, of the Montana Wolf Recovery Project, taking a cub to Yellowstone

Ranchers backed on round-up of 'green' Yellowstone wolves

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE environmentalists were all smiles three years ago when grey wolves were restored to Yellowstone National Park, but now a judge has ruled that the packs must be rounded up.

The unforeseen decision was a stunning rebuke to Bruce Babbitt, President Clinton's Secretary of the Interior, and a rare setback for the advocates of protecting endangered species. It was a victory for ranchers in the Rockies, who argued that the 150 wolves were a menace and had attacked more than 200 sheep, cattle and dogs.

Wolves once thrived in the Rockies but were hunted to extinction earlier this century. For years wildlife officials planned to reintroduce them and Mr Babbitt finally gave the go-ahead in 1994 at a cost of $5 million (£3 million).

By then, however, a hundred wolves had migrated from Canada into America and were spreading south. Judge William Downes ruled on a lawsuit brought on behalf of the ranchers by the American Farm Bureau Federation. He found that under the Endangered Species Act an experimental population of wolves may be placed in areas only where they do not occur naturally. The judge has agreed to delay his order pending an appeal by the Government, but both sides continued to argue the merits of the case.

William Pendley, representing the ranchers, said Mr Babbitt had known the programme was illegal but had yielded to his "obsequious obsession" to do the bidding of environmentalists.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition, a regional environmental group, protested that removing the wolf packs would terminate what had become a biological, ecological and economic success.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Mexico hit by El Niño snow

Miami: Northern Mexico became the latest region to suffer from El Niño, the weather phenomenon, as snowstorms and bitter cold killed 12 people and blocked roads and ports at the weekend (David Adams writes). In the normally tropical state of Guadalajara, it snowed for the first time since 1881. Conditions were particularly severe in areas bordering the United States. Three elderly men and a six-month-old baby were among the dead in Coahuila and Chihuahua states.
☐ **Buenos Aires:** A storm brought flooding to central Argentina at the weekend, killing at least two people and forcing the evacuation of more than 1,000. *(AFP)*

Israelis arrest bishop

Jerusalem: Israeli-Christian relations have been severely strained by the arrest of Samir Kafity, Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, for allegedly trying to cross the border from Jordan with "a crudely forged entry permit" (Christopher Walker writes). The arrest came only days after Ehud Olmert, Jerusalem's right-wing Mayor, launched a crackdown to ensure Christian institutions in the city paid full local taxes. Some Christians in east Jerusalem claimed the arrest was another harassment of senior Christians.

26,000 flee buried bomb

Ludwigshafen: More than 1,000 police officers, firefighters and volunteers cleared 26,000 people from this town on the Rhine in Germany's biggest evacuation caused by a leftover Second World War bomb. Munitions experts defused the 2.2 ton British aerial bomb, buried in a field, in a 1½-hour operation. Germany found out about the bomb through recently declassified US reconnaissance pictures. *(AP)*

War hit half of households

Hanoi: At least one person was killed from 50 per cent of the households in the central provinces of Vietnam during wars against the French and Americans, according to a government survey being made 22 years after the fall of Saigon and the end of decades of conflict. Most estimates say more than three million Vietnamese died in the wars. *(AP)*

Pressure to free prisoner

Hong Kong: The pressure is building on Beijing to release Wang Dan, 28, right, China's most famous political prisoner, in exchange for a new-year visit from President Clinton (Jonathan Mirsky writes). Mr Wang's mother, Wang Lingyun, visited her son at the weekend and said his respiratory and stomach problems have worsened because of extreme cold at Jinzhou jail in Liaoning province, where temperatures are as low as -10C (16F).

UN challenge to Saddam

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq faces a crucial challenge from United Nations arms inspectors today when full access will be demanded to his palaces (Michael Evans writes). It is suspected that the buildings conceal vital parts of a programme to develop weapons of mass destruction.

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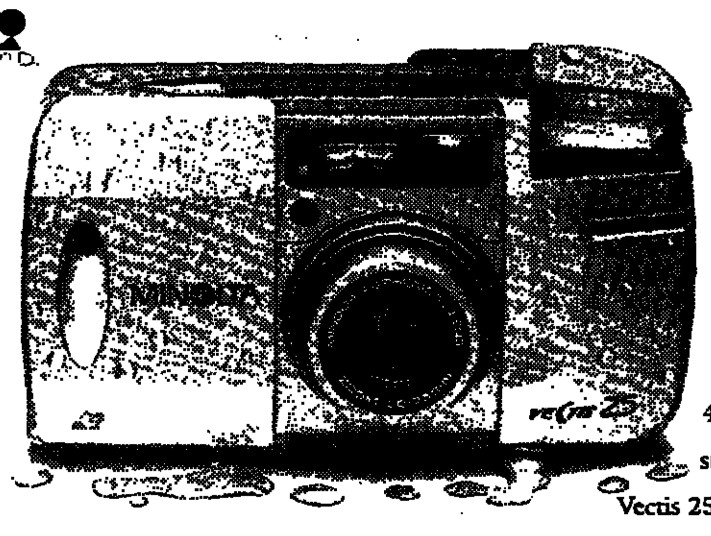

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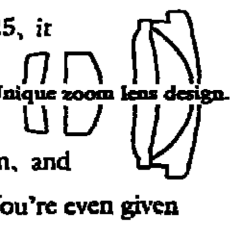
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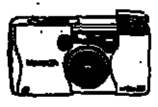
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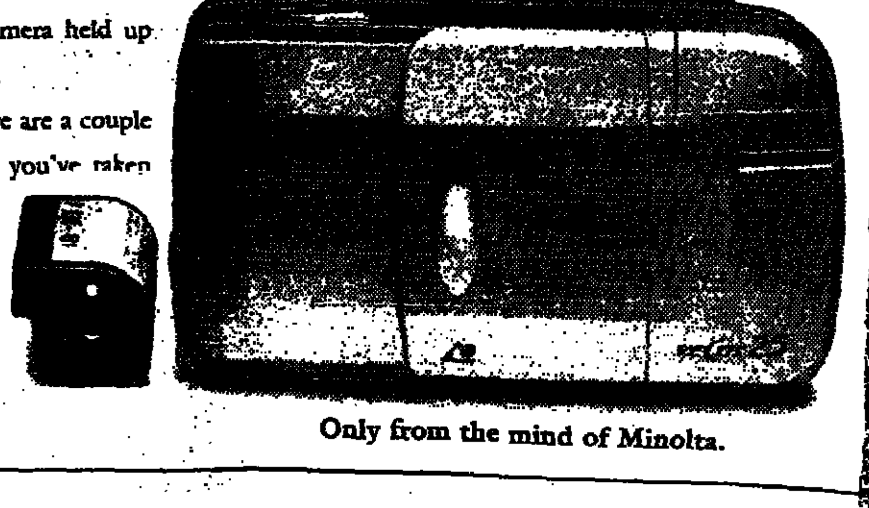

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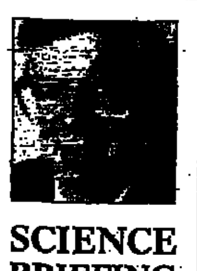
The spoilers ☐ Comet puzzle ☐ Late worries

Early man was no friend of the earth



SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

The aboriginal populations of the Earth are sometimes idealised as the first environmentalists, living in cheerful harmony with nature. Yet recent studies of the colonisation of North America have shown that the Indians killed even more wild creatures than the cowboys who later drove the bison to extinction.

Now research in Australia suggest that the dry Outback is the result of systematic burning of vegetation by Aborigines 50,000 years ago.

From about 150,000 years ago until about 40,000 years ago, says Dr Gifford Miller, of the *University of Colorado*, the northern part of Australia was drenched by summer monsoons. But by 10,000 years ago, at the beginning of the Holocene period when the African and Indian monsoons began to intensify, the Australian one did not do so.

"Since the Earth was experiencing marked increases in monsoonal activity in the early Holocene, something regional must have modulated the Australian monsoon," he told the autumn meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco last week.

The only mechanism powerful enough to alter the monsoon is vegetation, he says. Archaeological evidence shows that the first human beings reached Australia from South-East Asia about 50,000 years ago.

"Consistent burning by these people during dry periods may have altered the basic ecosystem, preventing the normal recovery of vegetation during the subsequent wet phase," he says.

The difference is enormous. Although the city of Darwin on the northern coast gets 80in of rain during the monsson, the interior gets less than 12in a year.

Soil in Australia is too alkaline to preserve fossil vegetation and pollen, which could confirm the hypothesis, so Dr Miller and his colleagues have turned to computer simulations. These suggest that a "vegetated Australia" would have enjoyed an extra three inches of rain a month in the interior during the monsoon.

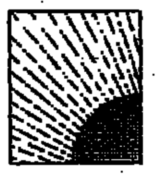
"This suggests that during peak periods of the Australian monsoon the penetration of moisture is highly sensitive to vegetation type, and that failure of the summer monsoon may be a direct consequence of human activity," he says.

Another thread of evidence backs the idea of abrupt climate change. Dr Beverley Johnson, working at the Australian National University in Canberra, has found that fossil eggshells of flightless birds can be dated accurately by the slow process of change, called racemisation, in the chemicals they contain. From a collection of fossil eggshells collected from an arid region in South Australia, she has been able to identify the diets of the birds.

The carbon isotopes found in fossil eggshells from a species called *Genyornis* and from emus show that the lush grasses that dominated from 70,000 to 45,000 years ago were being replaced by a more arid type of vegetation by 35,000 years ago, as the monsoon waned. This does not show that man was responsible, but Dr Miller finds it hard to think of a more plausible explanation.

Vegetation, he pointed out, has strong links to climate. In the Amazon rainforest, for example, fully half of the all the rain that falls is recycled during the wet season through the usual methods of plant transpiration and evaporation. The study is fresh evidence, if any were needed, of the potentially disastrous effects of forest clearance in the Amazon.

Plenty of snow, but no ice



THE IDEA that Earth is constantly bombarded by icy snowballs raining in at a rate of up to 30 a minute has come under strong criticism in the latest issue of *Geophysical Research Letters*. Dots on photographs taken by satellite-borne cameras provide evidence for the comets' existence, but Dr George Parks of the University of Washington asserts that they are not ice, but snow — the kind that afflicts a television set when reception is poor. He says that the cameras see exactly the same dots when tested in the laboratory as they do in space.

"These are instrument artefacts and there is no evidence of comets hitting Earth," he says. If they were genuine, he adds, they would appear on images taken by the polar satellite as dumbbell shapes, because the satellite is wobbling slightly as it turns. But they do not.

Further evidence against them comes from the lack of new craters on the Moon, which would be being hit 400,000 times a year if the comets were real. Dr Louis Frank of the University of Iowa, the comets' champion, remains unconvinced. "These are a new class of objects," he insists.

Why delay is bad for your health

WHY DO today what you could put off until tomorrow? Because, a study reveals, procrastination is bad for your health.

Two psychologists, Dr Dianne Tice and Roy Baumeister, claim to have broken new ground by carrying out the study, the first of its kind. Other psychologists have evidently never got around to it. In *Psychological Science* they report that they asked 44 students on a health psychology course to fill out daily symptom checklists and weekly measures of stress, together with their work requirements month by month.

Students who admitted to procrastinating handed in their work later (no surprise there), but also got lower grades. A second study, of 60 students, showed that procrastinators felt lower stress early in the term and fewer symptoms of ill-health, but that as the term progressed, stress increased and they suffered more from colds and flu. "Procrastinators end up suffering more and performing worse than other people," the psychologists conclude.

Procrastination, like drug abuse, is marked by impulsiveness and poor self-regulation.

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ARTS

'The Culture Secretary must be fed up with reading that he is well liked and welcomed wherever he goes — but unless he is supported those qualities could become a handicap' — *Melvyn Bragg*

Pages 18-19

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When friends swap gifts, there is an unwritten expectation that the gifts will be of roughly the same value, showing that their status is equal

The ritual of giving

The giving of Christmas presents says a lot more about the relationship between giver and recipient than people think. Anjana Ahuja reports

You probably think you have your Christmas buying sorted out — a shirt for your brother, perfume for your mother, furry slippers for your father and silk underwear for your spouse. However, sociologists caution that gifts are a symbol of your relationship — can the essence of your marriage really be captured in a pair of boxer shorts or lacy lingerie?

The giving of gifts has been practised in every civilisation ever studied, and a number of experts have turned their attention to it. It is a basic human ritual that has a place in every culture and religion. Gifts are given to mark important occasions throughout life, such as birth, confirmation, marriage and retirement.

The presents are often very specific. Eastern cultures favour the giving of sweets to celebrate achievement; watches make ideal retirement presents, because they symbolise the passage of time. Even wakes provide an opportunity to display generosity — guests often bring food, because it is deemed inappropriate for the bereaved to cook.

Sociologists view gifts as a marker of the social relationship between giver and recipient. "Gifts can create or reaffirm a relationship," Richard Harvey Brown, Professor of Sociology at Maryland University, says. "They also create obligation because there is an expectation that the generosity will be reciprocated."

But it doesn't take an expert to point out a few universal truths about exchanging presents. For example, when friends swap gifts, there is an unwritten expectation that the gifts will be of roughly the same value, showing that their status is equal. But they should not be of identical value because, Professor Brown says, it would look "too calculated". We all know that feeling of embarrassment when we realise that we have left the price tags on.

This equal-value rule of thumb does not apply in hierarchical relationships. "If you and your boss were exchanging presents," Professor Brown says, "your boss would be expected to give a larger present rather than the other way round. In return, they expect deference and hard work.

"If they are socially competent, your bosses can do this without making it look like that. There is a calculated ignorance, or a believed pretence, that goes along with that type of gift-giving."

'A gift could engender solidarity and sustain the bonds of society'

The "when" of giving gifts is as important as what you give, he adds. "If I give you a box of chocolates one day, and you give me a bouquet of flowers immediately afterwards, you are rushing to acquit yourself of any obligation. It can almost be insulting because it shows that you are rejecting any dependence on our relationship." Likewise, it is seen as rude to give presents late. Rarely would newlyweds be sent a wedding present more than six months after the happy day.

These seemingly petty attitudes run very deep because they have been ingrained in human beings for thousands of years. Anthropologists believe that gifts originated as a way to conduct trade among primitive societies. In parts of Africa, brides could be exchanged for cattle. This was regarded as better than a commercial transaction because a gift signified a continuing relationship. "It could engender solidarity and sustain the bonds of society," Professor Brown says.

In modern economies, the use of money removes the need for gifts. But that, says Leigh Schmidt, Professor of Religion at Princeton University, has made presents even more crucial to human relationships. Professor Schmidt says: "In market economies, people are very concerned about protecting their relationships, and gifts become even more important."

The real question that sociologists could help with is this — what to buy for those we love? Flowers and chocolates are favourite tokens between lovers because they have a sensual element. There is something special about home-made gifts because, Professor Schmidt says, they are free from the commercial element and have a "purity" about them.

Don't always go for the obvious. If you learn something new about the person that you are buying for — that they enjoy fine wines, for example — buy a wine guide or a bottle opener. "It shows you have a sensitivity to an aspect of their personality that isn't obvious, so it becomes a gift of intimacy," Professor Brown says.

Likewise, try not to shower your wife with kitchen applicances, which sends out signals that you perceive her as a housewife. Luxurious skin-care items might be more appreciated. In-laws are acknowledged as difficult, because they are "invented relations" and their status in families can swing between extremes. They can be the sort of people one sees only on Boxing Day, or they might be regarded as a second set of parents. Gifts should reflect this appropriately.

Even though they seem an eminently sensible option, gift vouchers are a tricky issue, because they reveal exactly how much the gift is worth. "It's very hard to make vouchers look like good gifts," sighs Professor Schmidt. "You can put them in an envelope or put them in a card, but they never seem to look right."

Although the commercialisation of Christmas has tempted some people to shun all things festive, they may be compromising their friendships. Both Professor Brown and Professor Schmidt agree that although gift-giving is not essential, it comes pretty close. And both agree that women are better at choosing gifts, simply because they tend to be more socially intelligent.

Professor Schmidt says he was a Christmas cynic until he studied the sociological meaning of gifts. "I used to think the exchange of presents was a hollow, trumped-up ritual imposed by business until I started working on it. Then I realised how important it was to people, and how much time and effort was spent on presents. Now I try to allow myself plenty of time, otherwise I tend to get desperate and ignore my own advice."

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A supermodel at the sixth-form ball

She's got the pout and the pedigree to become a *supermodel* — but Olivia Inge has yet to finish school. Style Editor **Grace Bradberry** reports

It's the essence of schoolboy fantasy — a supermodel at the sixth-form ball. Yet few of the boys at Wells Cathedral School will bat an eyelid when Olivia Inge, legs up to her armpits, 6ft in high heels, makes her entrance at their end-of-year bash. They are used to the sight of Miss Inge, 17, striding across the quads. So she'll be wearing an Alberta Ferretti dress, bought with the proceeds of her modelling work. So what?

She's not quite a supermodel yet, of course, but her agents at Models 1 have big plans for her — once she has completed her A levels in English, theatre studies and French. The agency discovered Olivia during a careers day at Wells. She had, in fact, been talent-spotted just a month earlier by the Metropolitan Agency in Paris while visiting her aunt. The agency wanted her to give up school and offered her a flat, clothes allowance and potential earnings of £10,000 a day. She turned them down — partly on the advice of her cousin, the supermodel Cecilia Chancellor.

"Cecilia told me not to leave school," says Olivia. "She left at 16 and said it really wasn't worth it. She pointed out that if I didn't make it, I'd be left with nothing."

For the moment, Olivia models only at weekends and during the holidays. It's hard work combining the two. She arrives at our shoot at 9am on a Saturday, scarcely having drawn breath after a week at school and a 21st birthday party in London the night before. But she is obviously one of those girls who really loves clothes, and picks through the beaded dresses and evening shoes, pulling out a particularly lovely pair of Jimmy Choo stilettos.

She cannot wait to devote herself to modelling full-time. "At the moment I turn up at castings red in the face from running up the stairs at the last minute. All the other girls will be sitting around, just back from a shoot in Barbados or wherever, looking really cool. It's hard to compete."

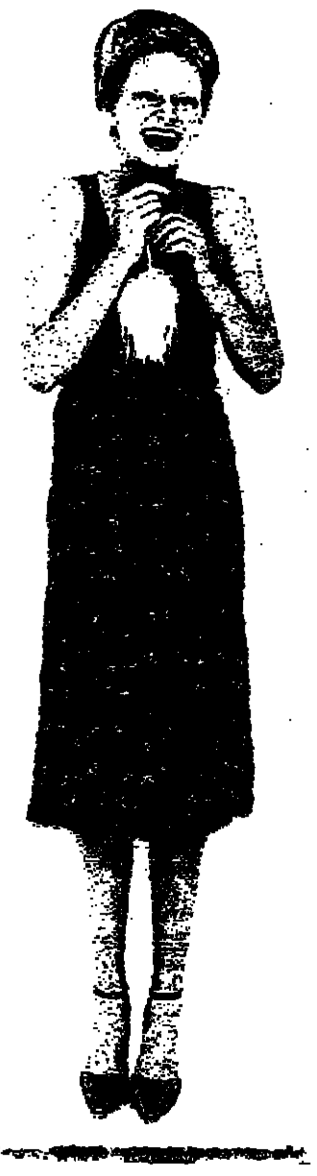
But Olivia has things going for her that those girls don't. In a world where pedigree counts, hers is impressive. Another of her cousins, albeit a distant one, is Stella Tennant. She is also the great-great-great-granddaughter of William Gladstone, the Victorian Prime Minister, and great-granddaughter of William Inge, the scholar, diarist and this century's most famous Dean of St Paul's Cathedral.

Heaven knows what Dean Inge would have made of the "spiritual" pretensions of the modelling world. Olivia was baffled when she arrived at a Japanese designer's show to find that she was expected to chant. "They had a kind of priest who got everyone saying the same thing over and over. I think it was 'God bless the designer' in Japanese. I sneaked out with a friend, but when we came back we were told it was compulsory." Some designers even insist that models arrive early for pre-show meditation. None of this has put Olivia off (and who indeed would let a bit of chanting deter them from a profession that can reap lottery-sized financial rewards?). She spent her October half-term in Paris and appeared in the Comme des Garçons show, and Yves Saint Laurent's salon-style showings. She also appeared in Vivienne Westwood's Red Label show last February, which marked the designer's return to London.

Olivia admits that her mind often wanders to the glamorous world of the catwalk while she is sitting in the classroom taking down the evening's homework.

"I haven't filled out the Ucca form. I'm taking a year out, and if things go well, I'll carry on. It's great fun, I love it — but the hours are a bit long, particularly on castings. I'll get home after ten appointments and there will be a call from the agency saying 'Can you just quickly go and see this person?'. It's exhausting."

And her ambitions? "I always said I wanted to do the Pantène advert. Now I'm not so sure. I'd love to be someone's muse. I think every model wants that because you get lots of money."



Top left: White velvet beaded dress, £985, by Prada, 43-45 Sloane Street SW1. Tel: 0171-235 0008; black crystal pocket bag, £360, at Erickson Beamon, 38 Elizabeth Street SW1. Tel: 0171-259 0202

Above left: Emerald green beaded dress, £250, to order from Katharine Hamnett, 20 Sloane Street SW1. Tel: 0171-823 1002; green diamanté necklace, £90, from Erickson Beamon; green satin and rose beaded shoes, £275, by Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcombe Street SW1. Tel: 0171-235 6008

Above right: Fuchsia column dress with jet beading, £1,060 by Hussein Chalayan at Liberty, Regent Street W1. Tel: 0171-734 1234; jet beaded ring, £36, by Erickson Beamon

Left: Olive embroidered and sequined dress, £349, by Joseph, 77 Fulham Road SW3. Tel: 0171-590 6200; pearl tiara, from £50, by Noel at Joanna's Tent, 289b King's Road SW3. Tel: 0171-352 1151; gunmetal snakeskin heels, £185, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street SW1 Tel: 0171-235 2932; feathered bag, £180, at Erickson Beamon.

Photographer:
JAMES GERWAT
Stylist: Deborah Brett
Hair: Raphael Salley at Michaeljohn Management
Make-up: Helen Bannon
Model: Oliva Inge
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Death of the Tory wife

The tweed-clad stalwart of the constituencies has gone. **Moira Petty** hails the arrival of the chic, independent, career-minded Conservative spouse

The old-style Tory MP's wife, stalwart of the shires, is no more. The Tory wife as we know her is dead.

At least part of the problem in an increasing number of Tory marriage breakdowns lies with a working wife who found the demands of a constituency a strain too far. And it has not escaped anyone's attention that when Ffion Jenkins marries William Hague on Friday she will be nobody's accessory.

Indeed, the vehemence with which she insists she will pursue her ambitions as an arts sponsorship executive strikes deep chords within the party's working wives. As one put it: "She would never dream of being a professional wife. She's worried her association with him could damage her career prospects."

Ms Jenkins is typical of the new generation of Tory wives, who are not merely high achievers in their own right but are often more high-powered than their husbands. In their carefully styled designer wardrobes they have outlawed the tweed and florals of their predecessors and invested in panache and sex appeal. If they are not adept at skewering pineapple chunks on cocktail sticks, are loath to declare countless fêtes open and fail to hang on their husband's every word, then that is the way they have contrived their role.

"A lot of what is expected of us is dreary," says a Tory wife intent on pursuing her own career. "I often wonder how many more wine and cheese parties I can endure but this is what the Empire was made of. I smile, draw the raffle, but I want to kick and scream. Helping in the constituency at the weekend is the political equivalent of lying back and thinking of England."

Anne Jenkin, the 42-year-old wife and secretary of Bernard Jenkin, MP for Essex North, confirms that many Tory wives are rejecting the demands traditionally made by the party and constituency. "Many wives put their foot down," she says. "A lot of high-flying career wives say 'I'm married to you, not to your job'. The local association has to put up with that. Some working wives will do the association dinner, AGM and Christmas bazaar and that's it."

Central to the ethos of the new Tory wife is her refusal to compromise her independence and her career in favour of the political interests of her husband. Andrew Lansley, MP for Cambridgeshire South, recently announced that he had separated from his wife, a GP in Ascot, Berkshire, and mother of three young daughters. She had refused to move the 60 miles to his constituency. "It wasn't working. I kept being asked in the constituency 'Where's your wife?'," he said at the time.

For other Tory wives the problem emerges when they are expected to spend weekdays baking cakes and raising funds in the constituency while their husbands stride the corridors of power. The new wives often base themselves in London, both to nurture their careers and to keep tabs on their husbands in the highly charged atmosphere of Westminster.

> 'I smile and draw the raffle but I want to kick and scream'

JOHN ANGERSON/GUZELIAN

Ffion Jenkins and William Hague: she is nobody's accessory

"I'm not leaving Bernard alone," says Anne Jenkin. "I've just read in a newspaper that, according to a poll, he is the 15th best-looking MP in the Commons. Power is attractive, and I know the dangers of not being with your husband.

"Being in London during the week is how we survive as a family and this will suit the working wife. We all know of MPs whose wives stayed in the constituency while they lived in London and got up to no good."

Mrs Jenkin faces the additional pressure of having children. So does Claire Ainsworth, 39, an investment banker and the wife of Peter Ainsworth, MP for Surrey East. "I'm constantly trying to juggle my work, my family and constituency demands," she says. "I don't have time to be a constant hostess to groups within the constituency, nor can I claim to have thrown a string of Christmas parties."

Mrs Ainsworth, a director at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, had an established career before her husband became an MP six years ago. She thinks constituencies are now more realistic in their expectations of MPs' wives.

"I've always worked. When my husband went before the selection committee they were aware that I had a career. As far as I'm concerned, the old-fashioned view of a Tory MP's wife is irrelevant."

Among the new order of Tory wives are doctors, lawyers, bankers, communications and media experts, artists, film-makers and writers. It is little wonder that they find the prospect of licking envelopes less than thrilling. Some deliberately put a distance between their professional life and that of their husband by keeping their maiden names. The ticket application for next February's Tory Party Winter Ball asks spouses how they like to be known and one observer tells how Alicia Collinson, a barrister married to Damian Green, MP for Ashford, Kent, crossed out the Hon Mrs Damian Green and wrote Miss Alicia Collinson.

Ironically, the role model for these women is not one of their own but Cherie Booth. ("I wonder how much work she does in the constituency?" asks one Tory wife tartly.) As MPs' wives rather than MPs, they are prepared to support their husband's career but not at the expense of their own.

Nothing better exemplifies the old and the new wives than two Westminster-based women's associations, the Parliamentary Wives Group and the Boat Club. The former has seen a decline in support because many of its activities — including trips to museums and stately homes — are held during the day.

Boat Club members meet every six weeks and swap tips on managing careers, children and the constituency — including how necessary it is to attend the AGM. Anne Jenkin is a member. "They're a powerful, punchy group of women and not the kind to be subservient to men," she says. "I'm so encouraged to see such high-quality women."

The Boat Club was set up by Nicky Ottaway, a founding director of ECM, an advertising and communications company, and the wife of Richard Ottaway, MP for Croydon South. She was aware of his political ambitions when they met in 1980 and unperturbed when he won his first seat three years later. International travel often keeps her away from Croydon but she does not think that her inability to attend every constituency function makes her unusual.

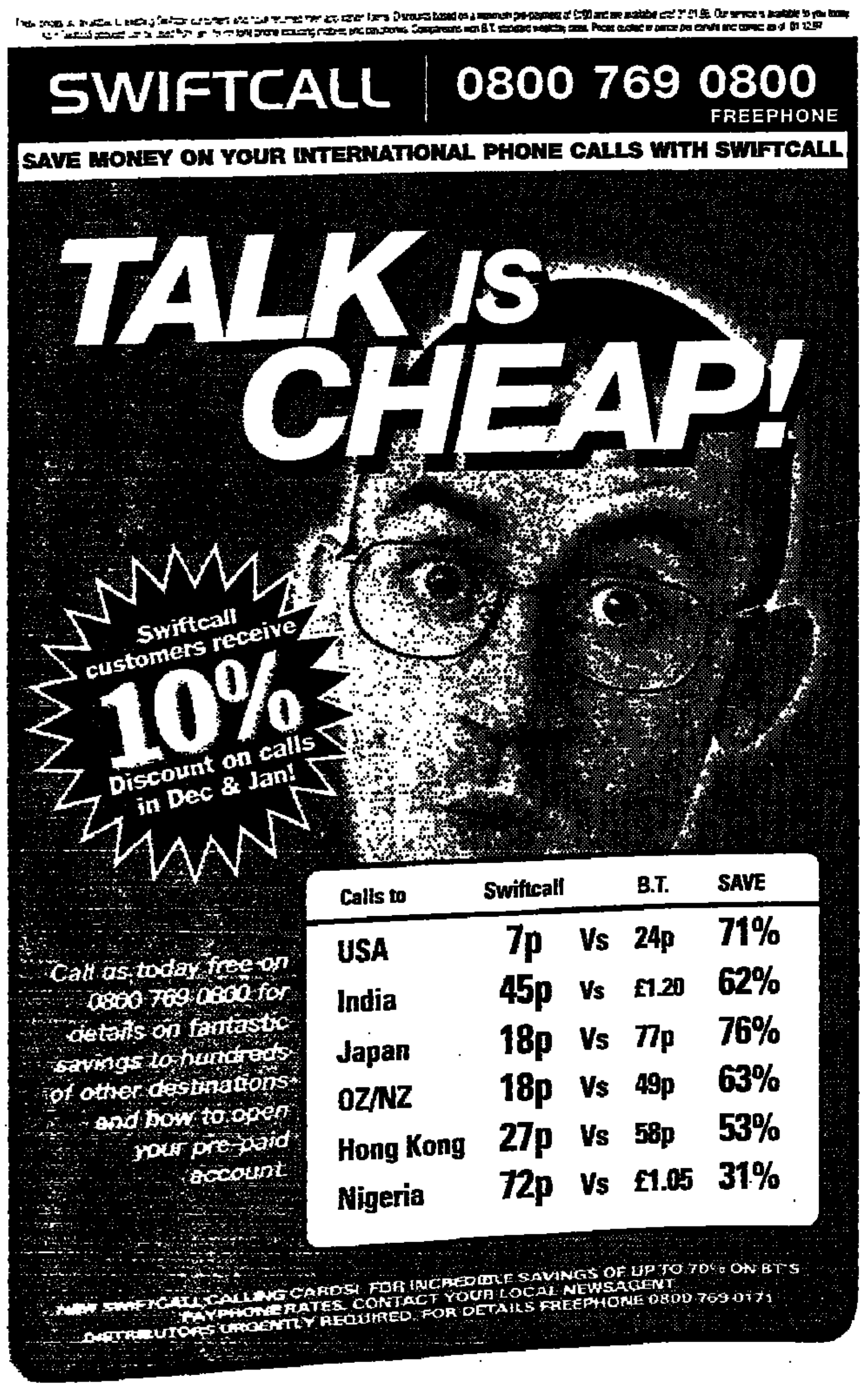
"I'm in more of a support role to Richard than in the front line. My impression is that the wives of Tory MPs are a different breed these days. The average age is much lower. We talk about the stresses of our dual lives. It's good to be able to have a moan and a bitch about things with those who understand."

Another wife points out that financial pressure as well as self-fulfilment is at the heart of many wives' decision to work. "MPs earn £43,000 a year; my husband took a 50 per cent pay cut to enter Parliament. Our husbands could earn much more so we work out of necessity."

The new Tory wife's greatest asset is an emancipated husband. Richard Ottaway is full of admiration for his wife. "I'm glad my wife has an occupation so she's not waiting around for me to come home from the House late at night," he says. "The Tory party is changing and does recognise that the wife will probably have a career. That has to be a consideration nowadays."

CORNELL CAPA MAGNUM

The new Tory wife eschews floral prints and bazaars: "Helping in the constituency is the political equivalent of lying back and thinking of England," says one



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Give a hand to the hands-on Mr Smith

A slag heap is a high mound of waste material which accumulates over many years. The arts in Britain are full of them. If Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is to shift them, he needs a lot of support.

It would be foolish to claim that everything that has happened in the arts over the past 18 years has been inadequate or incompetent. Just as the BBC is no more and no less than the sum of its programmes, so the subsidised arts are to be judged by their performance in the nation, and over the past two decades there have been enormous successes.

The National Theatre, the West Yorkshire Playhouse, the Tate Gallery, the Whitworth Gallery, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, a glorious 1980s period at the ENO, the Bush, the Traverse, Welsh National Opera, the Citizens Theatre ... it is not difficult to inscribe a roll of quality. The talent base is still there. So is the enthusiasm. So is the outstanding commitment of practitioners across the skills spectrum — from dancing and acting to design and lighting — many of whom have themselves, through low wages, subsidised the performing arts over these years.

There is plenty to boast about in the glossy brochures, and I have only scratched the surface — what about the excellent outreach work by the Hallé, the revivals in Belfast and Bristol, the stronger regional boards? — but glossy brochures often gloss over a less breezy reality which may hold more of the truth. As here.

There is a widespread and informed view that the channelling of public money from taxpayer through government to the arts needs a radical overhaul. In actions taken recently by two knowledgeable and concerned men — Smith and Gerald Kaufman, over the future of the Royal Opera House — this anxiety can be seen most plainly. Unless they consulted fully but privately with the Arts Council beforehand, both men, in their exasperation and determination to get things done, seem to have brushed aside the arm's length principle so proudly worn as a world-unique badge of honour by successive Arts Councils. That they should be prepared to be seen to breach this key arrangement is a measure of their understandable impatience. Neither, I think, is remotely interested in a command economy of the arts, but they thought that desperate remedies were called for — and clearly they were.

And if the frustration of two men in a position to take political action is so deep, then what pressure is felt across Britain by those who see ancient accretions of vested interest and longtime surrender to short-term solutions blocking any real possibility of dynamic change and sensible adaptation of the arts?

Smith must be fed up with reading that he is well liked and welcomed by arts outfits wherever he goes. But, unless he is well-enough supported — and soon — those very qualities could become something of a handicap.

Because of Labour's long track record — the postwar digging in of the Arts Council, the brilliantly effective determination of Jennie Lee in the 1960s — expectation was always going to be high. In opposition — especially at the turn of the 1990s — promises were often made which were wonderful to hear, although inevitably the realities of being in government proved some of them to be rash. But they were made, and their echoes have not gone away. Smith, although he is a fully signed-up new Labour realist, clearly wants to sort out the arts environment. This very intention has the consequence of yet again raising expectations which feel more cruelly dashed when delivery is delayed.

The trouble is the slag heaps. Despite the artistic successes over the years, arts funding in the UK has grown into a lumpy mass. Radical work is necessary and that takes time, thought and energy. Time is running out for many theatres, dance groups and orchestras. New thought comes neither swiftly nor easily, especially when it needs to think the unthinkable. And energy, as everyone knows in the arts, is largely consumed in the fight to keep going, to keep open.

There are clearly areas which cry out for connections to be made and where costs would be minimal — the new research done for libraries, for instance, and particularly their application in schools. Add a rearrangement of funding which would enable more small touring groups to work where their presence is so vastly appreciated, and this could be the beginning of a ground network which would be of incalculable value to children today and to audiences and practitioners tomorrow.

Similar connections could be made between libraries and the university of industry, and most of all between the publicly subsidised arts and broadcasting, especially publicly subsidised broadcasting. This area is lamentably underdeveloped.

One further problem is that there are so many current alarms which must distract from the concentration required to change the longterm structure of arts funding. Another is that, as we know, entrenched interests in this country are very hard to shift. On the other hand, as we also know, they can be shifted — and spectacularly, as they were in the middle of the year. It is time that the cannons which went off then began to find some of their targets in the arts.

OPERA: A cheerful Welsh staging for Monteverdi's comedy in Cardiff. Plus, in London, a tale of two Montserrats

Eurotrash laughs pack a lethal punch

The Coronation of Poppea
Cardiff

You can argue until the cows come home about whether words or music (or decor, or direction) are more important in opera, but as last Thursday's performance of Monteverdi's comedy suggested, the most vital element of all is the audience. David Alden's production, shared with the Bavarian State Opera, opened last summer in Munich, where a rather solemn festival audience took some time to switch on to what was happening: the patrons at Cardiff's New Theatre got it within minutes, responded uproariously, and stayed for nearly four hours — Welsh National Opera uncompromisingly perform a very full text — to cheer and cheer at the curtain calls. It was a joyful occasion, a composer communicating directly with his audience over a span of three centuries.

Yes, Alden's Eurotrash concept is on the broad side, but if you play *Poppea* "seriously" its cynicism becomes simply unbearable: as an Ortonesque black comedy, with sex on coffins and mad axe murderers on the rampage, it makes its point all the more lethally — through laughter. But Alden is far too clever not to recognise that this is at heart a desperately serious piece. His control of mood is positively Shakespearean: when music demands it, the larking-about stops, and in this he is at one with the outstanding conductor, Rinaldo Alessandrini, whose control of musico-dramatic pace from the harpsichord is faultless. The score canters along at near-speech rate, but relaxes into sweetly scented lyricism, profundity even, when the chameleon-composer requires it. Musical colour from both the singers' delivery of the Italian text and from the gorgeously sonorous continuo group ravishes the ear.

The comedy tends to be broader than in Munich, if only because the principals are less stately: the Nero and Poppea of Paul Nilon and Catrin Wyn Davies get up to amorous high jinks (to describe which one would have to resort to Latin) in a way that their more famous counterparts might have have found beneath them — Wyn Davies, especially, is indescribably sexy and in years to come could be the Lulu of one's dreams. Both are slightly dottier, too, which adds spice to Monteverdi's and Busenello's vision of a world in which seedy, decrepit gods provoke psychopathic mortals to ever more shocking acts of outrage.

There are many riveting performances. Sally Burgess's Empress Ottavia, every word an Exocet missile homing in on its target, makes Joan Crawford look like a shrinking violet. Neil Jenkins sings Arnalta very beautifully, and is the stateliest, most tight-lipped drag queen imaginable, like Ronnie Barker at his best. And he keeps his act up through the curtain calls: when a lewd wolf-whistle greeted him from the gallery, he responded with a shy moue and modestly lowered eyes. Michael Chance was plainly relishing a rare opportunity to exploit his gift for comedy as Ottone, and sang exquisitely.

And so on: Gwynne Howell's All Souls don of a Seneca, who believes everything can be solved with another glass of Scotch; Linda Kitchen's delightfully daffy Drusilla-as-PA; Julie Unwin's Damigella with her vertiginous cleavage; Alice Coote's tippling Goddess of Fortune doubling a Valetto straight out of Orton, and treated as such — all are vividly coloured portrayals. There is a tradition of shared productions seeming slightly muted second time round, but thanks to Alden and his new cast, the reverse is definitely true in Cardiff.

RODNEY MILNES

Neil Jenkins as Arnalta, "the stateliest drag queen imaginable", with Catrin Wyn Davies's "indescribably sexy" Poppea

A chirp off the old block

Montserrat Caballé can still fill the Festival Hall. But for her Christmas recital there, accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra and the LPO choir (on variable form), she enlisted a little family help. The evening was shared with her daughter, Montserrat Marti, with their numbers most scrupulously divided.

In the first half, Marti, a tall and poised soprano, sang two arias her mother surely taught her. Juliet's *O quante volte* from Bellini's *Capuleti* hardly suited the dusky and very Spanish timbre in the voice. But Charpentier's Louise went much better with *Depuis le jour*, one small slip apart. Maternal advice must have prompted *O mio babbino caro*, and Marti excelled in this at the end, suggesting that the more fragile Puccini heroines should be well within her grasp.

Caballé herself delivered early Rossini (*Ciro in Babilonia*) and Salome, not Strauss's but from Massenet's *Hérodiade*. She let the notes of the princess's first ecstatic glimpse of John the Baptist float out into the hall, cautious not to put too much pressure on a voice lacking some of the resources it once had. But when the end of the aria was in sight Caballé let rip. The two generations then joined for the Flower Duet from *Lakmé*.

The second half jettisoned opera for Christmas baubles. *Adeste fideles*, in a noisy arrangement by the evening's pliant conductor, José Collado, was not a good idea. Caballé now prefers to sing at a matronly tempo, which she did in *Mary's Boy Child*. The family reassembled with a Christmas medley, bizarrely arranged by Montserrat's brother Carlos, with the Café Momus music from *Bohème* suddenly sliding into the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

A bit of the old Caballé finally showed through when she stopped the conductor at the beginning of her encore: "We are not together," she told him. At 64 she still calls the shots.

JOHN HIGGINS

How would Beethoven have done it?

CONCERT
Festival Hall

WHAT one would give for an archive recording of Beethoven playing a Mozart piano concerto when the work was hot off the press! It happened in Vienna when Beethoven composed his own fiery cadenzas for the D minor Concerto. And it was as if it had happened all over again on Wednesday when Maria João Pires took these cadenzas as the cue to think herself into the mind of Beethoven as re-creator in a thrillingly revelatory performance of the K466 concerto.

With Bernard Haitink as close conspirator, the orchestral opening already bristled with reinvention. The horns' first entry sent shock waves through the strings, and the robust expansiveness of the piano in the development was an augury of the fierce dissection and celebration of the movement's ideas in that first Beethovenian cadenza.

Tension was barely released in a *Romanze* which all but belied its name, and certainly readjusted any indulgently post-Romantic view of it. Just as a quickening of pace in a conventionally "slow" Mozart aria can suddenly discover its true pulse, so the brisk heartbeat of Pires's chosen tempo not only increased the movement's sense of pathos, but gave remarkable velocity to its passionate minor-key episode.

The flute shot through the string textures like flame, as if to prepare for a finale in which the brimstone of *Don Giovanni*'s ending is very much in the air. The *dramma giocoso* episodes were tossed this way and that, revealing the harmonic and rhythmic tensions which inspired Beethoven's second turbulent cadenza, again magnificently recreated in the fearless fingers of Pires.

Plenty of steam rose, too, from Haitink's impassioned performance of Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloë*. This was a rare chance to hear not the suites but the *symphonie choreographique* in its entirety. Although there is a sense of some of the music waiting in the wings, the London Philharmonic's playing bared the physical immediacy and the raw sensuality of this score. And the chaste ecstasy of the choral interlude (BBC Singers) between two exquisitely achieved orchestral visions of the god Pan will resonate long in the memory.

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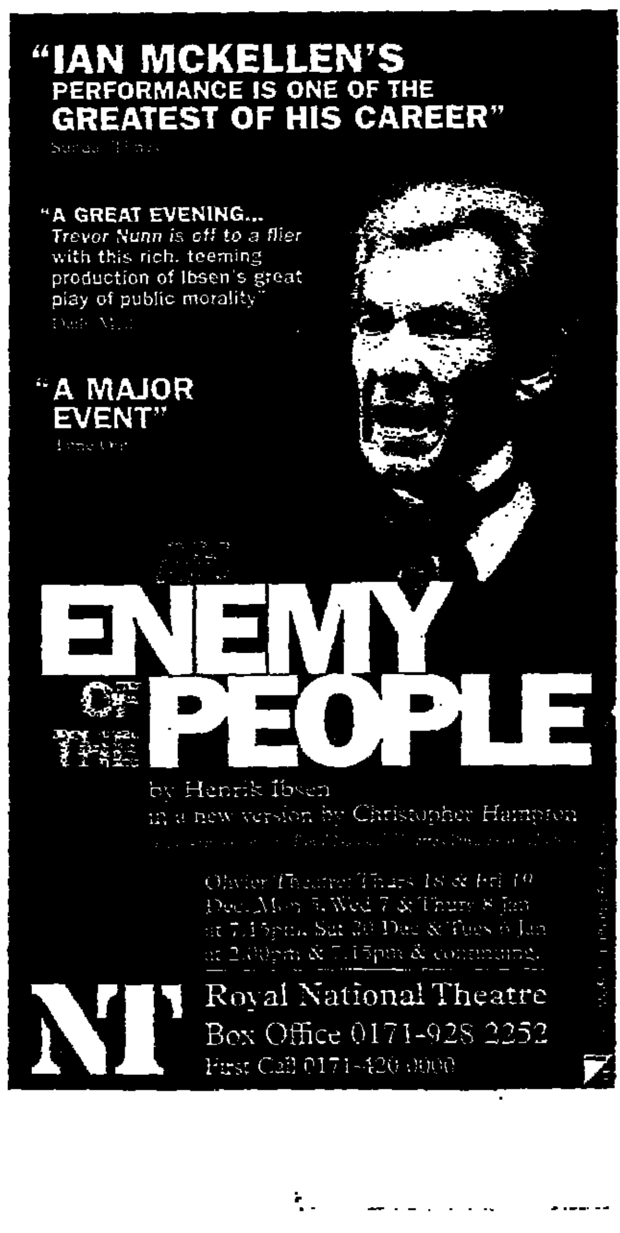

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THEATRE TOKENS

A nudge at the gates of Sodom

This launches Live at the Vaudeville, meaning months or even years in which funny men, funny women and, come the Right Stuff in January, funny theatre groups will be testing out their tickling sticks in the West End. Julian Clary does not, as it happens, do a great deal for my own armpits; but he makes a good opening choice for the first season, for he projects a subversive, anti-Establishment feel without ever leaving his more squeamish audiences feeling they have ventured too far through *the gates of Sodom*.

The impression is of a Quentin Crisp who has bathed in enough asses' milk and swallowed enough monkeys' glands to be restored to his pristine perfection. Or of a svelte, powdered Dorian Gray whose attic harbours a portrait that is as yet only mildly raddled. There are suggestions that Clary, "the renowned homosexual" as he styles himself, has feasted with the odd panther in his time; but they are a matter of hints, nudges and a lot of knowing doubles entendres.

Julian Clary
Vaudeville

The curtain rises on loads of sunflowers and tall Alice-in-Wonderland yellow roses in pots. In dance two huge green pods, which proceed to lob giant peas at the audience. Then out of one of them slithers Clary, to make rather a crude crack about Jim Dale's Fagin and his eight-times-a-week relationship with Oliver and to tell a marginally funnier anecdote about mistaking a fish-and-chip for a sauna. Myself, I laughed heartily just once, when Clary dropped a remark about becoming a "novelty horse-trough in Paris". What it meant I don't know, but it fitted the surreal mise-en-scène.

Clary could, you feel, be more sophisticated and cutting if he wished: but his fastidious friendliness and cool professionalism clearly delighted the first-night spectators. Indeed, he manipulated them with charm and ease, reproving one woman for her hairdo ("how long ago did your perm go so horribly wrong?"), offering an over-loud laugher a banana, and having some predictable fun at the expense of a party who claimed to come from the marketing department of London Zoo. Myself, I yearned for a bit more danger — and, as if to answer my prayer, Clary did once or twice court it.

A woman in the audience was badgered into giving her phone number, upon which Clary called her house in Bishops Stortford. As it happened, he got a cheerful-sounding girl who owned a horse called Jodine and was working on her A levels: but it might have been a trickier encounter. So might one with the three young men that his assistant, "Helga the Lesbian", had found in a nearby pub. Two of them looked like the sort of squat, scrubbed toughs who might go in for a little queer-bashing at closing time; but they grinned cheerily as Clary ribbed them and even submitted to a routine involving high jinks behind a screen.

I liked his S&M fantasy, which involved being frogmarched down the M4 and forced to lie face down in a Little Chef, and I liked his heterosexual sex primer, which primly advised fun-lovers to kiss "sensitive parts, a scar perhaps or a fat tummy". But a routine with a doll that he claimed was his baby, like one or two other items, could have been more imaginative. Still, never mind. The chap is a cult, and his devotees will surely relish it all.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Polish student assistant dragged in off the street.
Hewison '97

Julian Clary, a comedian with charm and subversion in equal measure, is the opening choice for the first season of Live at the Vaudeville

Playing with the audience

HOWEVER keen one's feeling for snow, walking into this theatre so recently and reluctantly vacated by the Peter Hall Company brings pangs of regret for the theatrical future that might have been. Perhaps the best possible successor is a show that ends as buoyantly as this one, for after its sequences of superior clowning from Slava Polunin, and his fellow performer Angela de Castro, the shaggy white scenery parts and three vast balloons, red, blue and yellow, each half the height of the proscenium arch, come rolling forward into the auditorium. Here they are sent bouncing up into the air by our outstretched arms — arms from all parts of the house, even the top circle.

Slava's Snowshow
Old Vic

The sight makes a nonsense of all sense of size, space and location. My own mind kept taking the absurd leap of supposing I must have been magically miniaturised and pushed into a drum-shaped toy where these three balls were rolling around on top of me. From the stage a boy clown I take to be Ivan Polunin, Slava's son, fielded any balloons that landed there and bounced them back to us, while his father sat at a corner of the stage with his back to a pillar, gazing at the scene with an expression of benign content.

This apotheosis of the art of play has been added since Slava brought his show to Edinburgh 18 months ago, but he himself looks the same, in his loose yellow coat, red cotton-reel nose and fluffy red slippers. He shuffles forward on these, moving his feet quickly but progressing only an inch at a time.

Castro is a dumpy penguin of a person but with huge eyes of doglike innocence. She moves just as slowly, and the opening scenes are mostly entrances where the pair of them attempt to master simple acts, like managing to meet one another. When Castro unexpectedly departs, Slava makes the little movements we might try in the dark, groping in the air for the absent her. Shot through with arrows, he totters, and with a twitch of his mouth turns the agony to irony. Images of desolation switch to joy, then are left with the emotion suspended. All this and a snowstorm of heart-catching ferocity and beauty. A class act.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Come back, Shane

FOR a man whose career has, at best, meandered gently, Shane MacGowan has maintained an extraordinary popular presence. Since leaving the Pogues in 1991 he has produced only two albums, but he has been the subject of a television film, a contributor to the BBC's version of *Perfect Day*, and the face of Aer Lingus advertisements. And, just in case anyone failed to notice all this, he was arrested during his current tour with his band, the Popes.

Much of the attention is, of course, owed to his reputation as the man who wrote *Fairytale of New York* and *A Pair of Brown Eyes*, and who invested folk styles with punk passion. But there is another side to his fame: his legendary drinking. Read any interview with MacGowan and you find a detailed account of his intake of half-pints of Martini.

POP
The Popes
Norwich

So, watching him play live, you try to concentrate on the music, but it is almost impossible. From the moment he shuffled cautiously across the Waterfront stage, one wondered about his health. His six-piece band — accordion, banjo, whistle, fiddle, guitar and drums — may kick the songs into life, but MacGowan doesn't so much sing as recite the words between drags on his cigarette.

There is little force to the once bitter, raucous voice, and there is a bemused look on his face, whether he is performing old songs or new, whether Irish dance tunes or the cajun rock of *Paddy Rolling Stone*. Only briefly do you glimpse the rough-edged sentimentality that established his reputation. It is there in the melancholic chorus of *Lonesome Highway* when he pleads "don't let me go, I love you so"; or on Ewan MacColl's *Dirty Old Town*, when he reaches desperately for the notes.

But whatever he does, the audience adores him, cheering him on, vicariously relishing the sadly careless way he treats both himself and his songs.

JOHN STREET

This week in THE TIMES

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Griff Rhys Jones plays the ace reporter in *The Front Page* at the Donmar

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REVIEW: Wednesday

■ OPERA

Donizetti discovery: the Royal Opera premieres *Elisabetta* at the RFH

OPENS: Tomorrow
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■ ICE DANCE

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Neither a surrender, nor isolation

Tony Blair explains the importance of Euro X

By far the most important decision at the Luxembourg summit concerned the agreement to begin negotiations on enlargement of the EU. The invitation to former communist countries was a truly historic development which we will take forward when we inherit the EU presidency in January.

Yet whatever the debate inside the council chamber, much of the attention outside focused more on discussions of Euro X, the planned informal grouping to discuss management of the single currency.

It is easy to understand why, after years of Conservative summitry, there is a desire in some quarters to present any European debate as being a battle between Britain and the rest. But in the four summits I have now attended as Prime Minister, it simply has not been like that. The image of an isolated Britain is entirely false. There was actually considerable support among many others for our position.

I now read bizarre accounts of mythical conversations in which Helmut Kohl is said to have urged me to "salute the French flag" a bit more! He said no such thing, of course. Indeed, he played a helpful role in the discussions. But we have to get out of the absurd position which presupposes that only Britain fights for its own ends, while all the other countries basically agree on everything that comes before them. I well remember at Amsterdam, in the middle of the night, the whole negotiation being held up by one country for four hours until a solution was found.

The issue on which we fought at the recent Luxembourg summit was, however, crucial to our national interest. Nobody should imagine it was a side show, or an issue of presentation or even prestige. There were crucial points of substance and principle at stake.

The issue was this: should Euro X become, in effect, a new body of economic government for the EU, in which membership is restricted solely to those countries in the single currency area?

There are those in Europe who wanted that to be the case. But the effect would have damaged Britain. It would have meant that on some issues crucial to our national interests, whether we are in or out of the single currency, Britain and others would have been shut out. The concern about that prospect was by no means confined to the four countries of the 15 who will not be in the first wave.

So it was vital that Ecofin, the Finance Ministers of all 15 member states, was reasserted not just as the primary but as the *only* decision-making body.

Of course, we have always said that countries who were in the single currency should be able to meet informally to discuss the narrow range of issues that arise from that position. But the other vital agreement at Luxembourg was that where the interests of non-euro countries are engaged, or matters of general economic policy are discussed, all countries are there as of right. And in any event, any issue of dispute can be immediately tabled for discussion at Ecofin, and it is at Ecofin that all decisions are taken.

This allows a perfectly sensible arrangement where matters genuinely to do with the manangement of the single currency can be discussed, though not decided, by countries in the single currency. But otherwise, all countries take part, whether informally in Euro X, or formally at Ecofin.

Of course, there was some very robust debate. But it was important that the context of Euro X was set in a sensible way, and to be fair to the French Government, they accepted this as right. So any misunderstanding is now clarified and that, in the end, whatever the struggle to get there, was welcomed by all.

It was not just the British Government — far from it — that feared a rival body to Ecofin. Our fear was never that an informal grouping could get together to discuss issues surrounding the euro. It was that we could not take part in those discussions when they affected our national interest, and that any body rather than Ecofin made decisions concerning the EU approach to economic issues.

On January 1 we take over the presidency of the EU. We do so as a country that is positive about Europe, engaged in Europe, but resolute in defence of what is right and in our interests. We signalled immediately after the election that with a new Government would come that new and more positive approach.

The benefits were clear from the gains we made in discussion on the new Amsterdam treaty. They were clear too, as was widely recognised throughout Europe, from the British contribution to the vital debate on economic reform at the special jobs summit. They were clear when we secured our objectives on the tobacco directive.

But nobody ever imagined that there would not be times when we would have to engage in very strong argument to protect our interests. Neither we not anyone else around that table in Luxembourg see anything wrong in that. The impression is sometimes given — another sad legacy from the Tory years — that the only choice is between surrender and isolation.

That is false. It is in Britain's interests that we are a leading player in Europe, and though we are not in the first wave of EMU, we are a leading player and the other countries large and small welcome that. It is in Britain's interests to be standing up for a vision of Europe that is right. It is in Britain's interests to be at the heart of vital debates ahead, on reform of the common agricultural policy for example, on enlargement, on driving through the single market. There will be arguments and it is important to win them. We do that by being pro-European and tenacious in equal measure.

Yes, there is a new rhetoric. But there is new substance too. That has led to a new understanding in Europe both of Britain's influence and of our determination. We put both to Britain's, and to Europe's, good.

Questions are growing about Microsoft's power and arrogance — and the quality of its products

Is Bill Gates really selling us all Ladas?

Microsoft has developed the most powerful monopoly in human history, even more powerful than the monopoly John D. Rockefeller built in Standard Oil. This is proving to be the year in which the public attitude to Microsoft has changed. Last January Bill Gates was still generally seen as a benefactor of mankind, who had developed new and efficient software to spread the advance of electronic communications. Now, this December, Mr Gates is widely seen as a systematic monopolist of communication software who is exploiting the information age. Microsoft is viewed as greedy, not over-competent, manipulative and arrogant. It is thought to be charging too much for software which is still far from being user-friendly. His critics attack Bill Gates, as their critics attacked the old monopolists, as a "malefactor of great wealth".

The degree of monopoly is not in doubt. Microsoft provides the software for more than 90 per cent of personal computers and for 80 per cent of word-processing. Some 80 per cent of computers use Windows 95. Next year Microsoft planned to launch Windows 98, which was intended to include an "Internet Explorer" facility. If that does go ahead, the Microsoft monopoly could well be extended to the Internet. A world monopoly in communication software would give awesome power and be extremely profitable.

Microsoft competitors, and the American Government, allege that Microsoft uses its power to lock out competitors. Last week there was a crucial judgment in the American courts which went against Microsoft. The issue arose out of Microsoft's consent agreement with the US Government in 1995 that it would not seek to extend its monopoly by putting Internet browsing software in a single package with Windows 95. This could have resulted in the 80 per cent of users who have Windows 95 also automatically having a Microsoft connection for browsing on the Internet. The main loser would have been Netscape Communications, Microsoft's main competitor in this part of the market.

Microsoft did not directly break the consent decree; it thought it had found a way around it. The company made the purchase of Windows 95 conditional on taking Microsoft's Internet browsing software as well. The US Government objected, and last week, in a preliminary hearing, the judge upheld the Government's position.

The United States has a long history of hostility to business monopolies; a series of big monopolies have been reduced or broken up. The Supreme Court in 1911 dissolved the original Standard Oil Company into a number of big but separate companies. After the Second World War, American Telephone and Telegraph was similarly broken up into regional companies and IBM, which had a monopoly position in computer hardware, had to sign a consent decree after litigation in the 1980s. The precedents under American law are that Microsoft will not be allowed to expand, or even retain, its present degree of monopoly.

Public opinion has historically been the decisive factor in forcing the break-up of American monopolies. It was President Theodore Roosevelt who called the anti-trust journalists "muckrakers", but they did their job. In his later years, John D. Rockefeller, the greatest individual monopolist before Bill Gates, went for advice to a public relations firm, and took to giving out dimes to children in the street in order to soften his image as a hard-hearted businessman. He also became a philanthropist on a large scale. He may have become personally more popular, but the idea of monopoly did not.

There is already a lively anti-Microsoft campaign, though so far it has largely been expressed in the independent rather than the American establishment press. On the Internet itself there are Websites devoted to criticising Microsoft; there are also *samizdat* anti-Microsoft sheets, which are photocopied and passed from hand to hand. Now something new is happening. Businessmen, both in the United States and Britain, are reviewing the results of their own investment in information technology, and many of them are not liking what they see.

William Rees-Mogg

In the early 1990s many UK businesses developed an innocent faith in investment in information technology. The board decided what the needs were, consultants came in and made recommendations, the board approved them as an item of capital expenditure, the hardware and software were installed. Big improvements in efficiency and savings of staff were expected, as was a large increase in profits as a return on the IT investment. Unfortunately, things did not work out like that for most businesses, at any stage of the process.

Most senior managers now at board level have only a superficial understanding of information technology; boards are bad at deciding what they need; consultants are expensive, hard to monitor, and of variable quality; their recommendations are often inappropriate to the real needs of the business; the technology and software seldom deliver what the consultants have promised, and always cost more than the boards have budgeted for; the IT systems need to be updated continuously; the once-for-all capital expenditure turns out to be an annual commitment, tending to rise year after year; the improvement in efficiency is less than has been forecast, and staff savings are much less — indeed, sometimes staff numbers actually rise; profit gains are much smaller and the IT investment is much bigger than the board hoped for; instead of being a profitable investment, IT turns out to be a running cost.

Boards blame everybody, including particularly the consultants, and sometimes even themselves. But most of all they blame Microsoft, which is a monopoly for much of the software and seems to be getting rich while failing to deliver the goods. The boards want a normal suppliers' choice of simple and reliable software, which does all that is asked of it, allows real savings to be made, does not cost too much, and does not have to be changed too often. No doubt that is what Microsoft or its successors will be providing in a generation's time, but it is certainly not what businesses have been getting in the 1990s. Microsoft, in monopolising a world of profit, has also monopolised a world of blame. It is rather as though an automobile company were the sole world supplier of cars, priced them at the Mercedes level, built in obsolescence so that every owner had to buy a new one every year, and actually sold Ladas.

The next litigation is going to be equally important. It concerns Microsoft's use of the computer language Java, which can provide comparability between Windows 95 and other computer software. Java would undermine Microsoft's Windows monopoly and Microsoft has been trying to avoid that. Sun Microsystems, which developed Java, is trying to force Microsoft to operate according to what it believes to be the contract. Of course, Microsoft has the reply, and is even counter-suing. My belief is that the American hatred of monopoly, which dates at least from the 1880s, will prevail. The best advice one can offer Bill Gates is to start handing out money to children; I know he will need to offer them dollar bills rather than dimes.

The Age of the Inspectors

A powerful new elite is patrolling Britain's town halls, says

Peter Riddell

Don't put your daughter on the stage Mrs Worthington. Consider, instead, her becoming a government inspector. This offers far better prospects. We are now in the age of the auditor and the inspector, Plato's "Guardian Class". Recent announcements about the future of the NHS, schools and local government all involve greatly increased national inspection of local performance. It is new Labour's way of running the public services.

The big expansion of such auditors/inspectors started under the Tories. This was because of a change in the role of the State, from provider to regulator and supervisor — notably over the privatised utilities, but also other public services. Implicit in the Tory approach was that such audits should encourage competition. Local councils were forced to test services against private sector bids under compulsory competitive tendering (CCT). The information provided by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and by national league tables was intended to allow parents to choose between schools — in effect, leading to selection where demand outstripped supply.

Labour has built on this structure, though with the crucially different aim not of assisting market solutions but as a substitute for them. There is a lot of characteristic new Labour guff about partnership, co-operation, sharing and contestability (a euphemism for competition and losing contracts). While unwilling to give local councils the freedom they had before 1979, ministers recognise that the public needs reassurance about the quality and cost of services. But they do not believe this can be achieved by increasing consumer choice directly, so inspectors are being given greater powers to improve local standards.

The new School Standards and Framework Bill gives the Secretary of State powers to intervene over failing education authorities, schools and teachers. David Blunkett and Stephen Byers believe central Government has the responsibility to correct failure. A parallel approach was proposed in last week's NHS White Paper. A new Commission for Health Improvement is being set up with powers to check on local standards — after recent errors in cancer screening — and the Health Secretary will have powers to intervene directly. Similarly, the Government intends to replace CCT with what is known as "Best Value", a rolling system of audit of all local authority services.

There are many virtues in such audits, particularly where the provider is itself the council. Chris Woodhead and Ofsted may be unpopular with teacher unions, but as the scourge of underperforming teachers and schools, they have punctured comfortable notions about improving results and identified what needs to be done. Similarly, the Audit Commission has built up an impressive record over the past decade not just as a watchdog of financial probity but also as a rigorous, and independent, monitor of the effectiveness of local bodies, including councils, the police and hospitals.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Under the energetic Andrew Foster, the commission has published a series of reports on variations in standards of performance — most recently, on the striking contrasts in the experience by patients of pain after surgery at different hospitals. It has also done work on broader issues such as crime and community safety and care of the elderly. The dilemma the commission now faces is how far is it seen as an agent of Whitehall in implementing "best value" and how far can it remain an independent auditor, advising local bodies and people.

Auditors can do much to propagate best practice and cost-effective solutions, not just to help obvious failures but also, crucially, as Mr Foster argues, the mass of average performers. But inspectors cannot be the sole answer to funding decisions. As Stephen Pollard gives warning in the *New Statesman*, the NHS White Paper does not resolve the underlying problem of rationing scarce resources. *Waiting lists will still exist.* If there is a limit on taxpayer finance, then more money will have to come from the private sector. But the Government does not want to address this issue and has discouraged private provision by ending tax relief on medical insurance for the elderly and by its squeeze on middle-class savings.

The audit culture is also a managerial phenomenon. It provides information to enable ministers, civil servants and managers to take action. There are dangers, as Michael Power, of the London School of Economics, has argued, not only in a pathology of excessive checking, but also in creating measures of performance in the interests of the audited body rather than the public. Parents, patients and council taxpayers can themselves do little apart from nagging local providers. The NHS White Paper proposes to strengthen the clout of general practitioners in relation to hospitals, but patients will be confronted with local monopolies of GPs in the new primary care groups. They will still have little choice.

The Government has been a bit more adventurous in proposing education action zones, clusters of schools in run-down areas where educators, parents and businesses can try new approaches. But it has been reluctant to allow explicit competition within the public sector along the lines of the successful charter schools in America. These schools, championed by President Clinton, are still taxpayer-financed, but are independently run by groups of teachers, parents and businesses. They are not a middle-class preserve but have been popular in inner-city areas. They could provide real parental choice as an alternative to failing schools.

The Government is right to emphasise national inspection and comparison. The links between voters and funding are too weak to provide sufficient pressure on local providers. National inspection has an important role in improving standards. But as instinctive Leninists, the Blair team still have too much liking for central direction. The Government inspector needs to be supplemented by genuine local choice.

Bowling off?

CAMILLA PARKER BOWLES may lay down her crop. The figurehead of the Beaufort Hunt is being urged by friends to muck in with public opinion by giving up hunting. They fear that being seen in such warrior pose makes Camilla, due to ride out on Boxing Day, appear "haughty and aloof". The move will cause deep gloom among the Beaufort mob (Princess Michael of Kent, the Duke of Beaufort, the usual Gloucestershire stiff necks), who had relied on her support. Camilla hunted with them last month, just 24 hours after MPs supported a ban on hunting with hounds. Her friend the Prince of Wales is, according to aides, "acutely aware" of the public mood. He hunts less now and tells friends that he may have to quit the sport. Allowing a drag hunt on his Highgrove estate was an attempt to appease the anti-hunting lobby. Stalwarts at the Beaufort are sceptical. "It's scurrilous to suggest that Mrs PB will give in to pressure," says Ian Farquhar, joint-master. My sources are less certain.

Yoiks and goodbye: Mrs PB

● *LORD Archer of Weston-super-Mare may have replaced Bob Hoskins as star of those lucrative BT adverts, but the actor bears no ill-will: "Anyone who can get money out of BT, good luck to 'em."*

THE TIMES DIARY

Desk job

DESPITE claims that his staff broke into Tiny Rowlands's safe and bugged the phones of underlings, Mohamed Al Fayed is a great protector of privacy. Particularly his own, as Mr James Steen, Editor of *Punch*, the Egyptian shopkeeper's fabled organ, has discovered. Steen attended an editorial conference in Al Fayed's Knightsbridge office recently. Realising he was alone, he found his fingers scampering through letters on his master's desk. "They would prove an irresistible honeypot to any journalist," Steen offers. Unfortunately, Al Fayed walked in — and took a rather less charitable view. The result: a ban, temporary I trust, from the proprietor's suite.

● *THE truth about Father Christmas has been deemed unsuitable for TV by the advertising regulator, ITC. It has instruced advertising agencies not to cause unnecessary stress to children by showing adverts which "indicate that a child's main presents are not delivered by the real Santa Claus". The message comes too late for Comet, which has released a commercial of a father in red rig rushing out to play a Playstation.*

Yellow peril

A NEW scandal looms at the Treasury. Mr Ed Balls, special adviser to Gordon Brown, has an outside interest as treasurer of "Canaries at Westminster", promoting the flagging fortunes of Norwich City FC. The performance of Balls — reputedly a financial whizz-kid — has turned some Canaries, well, yellow. "The group has no funds," says a source. "I hope the Chancellor doesn't have the same problem." The club president has been urged to investigate. Awkwardly, that is the celebrated sleazebuster, Martin Bell, MP. "The second half of the season is always better than the first with Norwich," suggests Balls, by way of defence.

"Just off to see Harriet Harman, dear"

● *NOSTALGIA will pervade the Lords today, when Lord Morris of Manchester, who as Alf Morris introduced the first disability legislation, makes his maiden speech in a debate sponsored by Baroness Masham of Ilton. It was her powerful speech from a wheelchair that helped power through his Bill.*

Jap flap

WANTED: a Japanese tutor for Tony Blair. The PM is to head a huge British invasion of Japan in the new year, with everyone from Kenneth Branagh to Highland Games competitors. Flatteringly, 1998 is Year of British Culture in Japan. Mr Cool Britannia is keen to display cosmopolitan flair, and wants to learn basic phrases. He has already impressed Euro-types with his franglais, but Japanese could be more challenging. I just hope that Japan's happy image of Britain — crusty colonels, bored Beefeaters, peeling palaces — is not entirely crushed.

GRETA SCACCHI is having a torrid time filming *Love and Rage*, surrounded by Atlantic swirl off the Irish coast. The costume drama features a great house burning down (fiercely). Now the production office has been struck by lightning. Worse, local prints say she is playing a "dowdy dowager". "What," she demands, "is dowdy about me?"

● *GEOFFREY ROBINSON seems little keener to share his Lutyens homes than he is details about his finances. The Lutyens Trust has not been invited to either the Hampshire mansion, Surrey villa or London flat: "We invite him to all our functions," it says, "but we've yet to set eyes on him."*

JASPER GERARD

ONSHORE TRUST

Geoffrey Robinson's credibility is slipping away

This Government has, rightly, placed a considerable emphasis on lifelong learning. It is unfortunate that it appears unwilling to apply those lessons to itself. One month ago, Tony Blair was obliged to appear on television and defend himself in what became known as the Bernie Ecclestone affair. As Peter Mandelson shrewdly observed shortly afterwards, the Labour Party had strayed into needless political difficulty for two reasons. It had ignored the reality that an appearance of impropriety is as important as its actual practice and it had released relevant information belatedly and reluctantly rather than swiftly and openly.

All these mistakes have been revisited in the case of Geoffrey Robinson. The Paymaster General had, at first, chosen to ignore the various questions put to him. He then responded with letters threatening libel. Yesterday, by contrast, he appeared in almost every newspaper offering the same argument: that his financial transactions were legal and that he had done nothing wrong. At worst, it was implied, his association with an offshore trust of which he was but a "discretionary beneficiary" laid him open to unfair charges of hypocrisy.

If hypocrisy were the issue then Mr Robinson would have little to worry about. The trait is present in most professions, with politics a primary example. However, the Robinson affair has travelled well beyond that station. The shift in emphasis between his position at the outset of this saga and the explanation now outlined is so stark as to call into question his credibility. As Mr Blair, who has been a discretionary beneficiary of relative credibility, should know, this is the currency of politics. Mr Robinson is very close to the point of devaluation.

The Paymaster General's problems are threefold. First, there has been from the outset an inherent tension in a minister whose primary responsibilities involve savings and taxation matters also having such a close connection with a tax avoidance mechanism. That would be true whether or not Gordon Brown had chosen to condemn such practices in the absolute language that he did. If it were a Conservative minister, this would still be an issue. Furthermore, it is certain that Labour would have pursued it with total vigour. It is hard to see how Mr Robinson can be plausibly presented to the public on such questions now that he has become "Mr Offshore".

Secondly, his story has shifted considerably. He initially claimed that the transactions between Transtec, Stenbell and Orion Trust were conducted at "arms length" and that he had no influence on them. He has since conceded that he "suggested" to the trustees that they might pursue the rights issue that he had declined to take up. He was also intimately involved in the trust's acquisition of shares in Coventry City Football Club. His UK trust may be blind. His Guernsey trust appears less than deaf and barely short-sighted. Thirdly, it is uncertain whether Treasury officials were fully informed of these complex connections when they blessed the minister's dealings.

Mr Robinson's credibility can only be rescued by complete disclosure. Some of his financial arrangements will involve matters of corporate confidence and the accounts of others that should not be exposed to press and public. Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, should be asked to adjudicate on what those items are and then scrutinise them himself in private. Nothing should be withheld from him. It is hard to see what the Paymaster General would lose from such external examination. If he will not submit himself to it, then, regrettably, he should lose his office.

CUTTING BY DEGREES

Oxbridge college fees may be cunningly eroded

Five months after the publication of the Dearing report the fate of college fees — and hence the continued viability of Oxford and Cambridge in their present form — is still uncertain. David Blunkett met the two Vice-Chancellors last week to outline the options presented to him by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Their conversation was cordial but inconclusive. This week may produce some solid answers.

This issue has bounced, often at bewildering speed, between Mr Blunkett, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. At one stage, it seemed that Baroness Blackstone, the Minister for Higher Education, might succeed in her scorched earth campaign against Oxbridge. It then looked certain that the Prime Minister had intervened to restore existing financial arrangements. Since then, however, the Chancellor has made a last-minute appearance — rather like General Blücher at Waterloo but on the side of Napoleon.

Mr Blunkett now has the thankless task of seeking a solution. The formula that has attracted his attention would abandon the college fee but transfer the sums involved directly to the two university authorities as additional revenue. This might strike some as a rational and reasonable compromise. Oxbridge would keep the cash and the Government could iron out an irritating anomaly. It could even be presented as a partial climbdown by the Department for Education.

Appearances can be deceptive. There is a logic in the college fee as currently constituted. The distinctive feature of Oxbridge teaching is that it is conducted in small sets, based in and organised by colleges. The shift of moneys to a common fund would cease to reflect that reality. Furthermore, the move would inevitably alter the balance of power between the colleges and the universities. There is a very strong case indeed that this relationship should be reconsidered and some additional authority moved to the centre. That, though, should be the result of internal deliberation and not the imposed diktat of national government.

While the college fee still sits in isolation it can only be clipped or completely chopped in a public fashion. Submerged into a wider sum it can be invisibly eroded. This is almost certain to happen. The Government will offer no guarantee that the differential awarded in the first year of a single grant would be retained thereafter. The Department for Education is committed to a policy of "convergence" whereby a fixed figure, with minor differentials, is allocated per student for each subject regardless of location. Over time, therefore, Oxford and Cambridge would both lose public funding.

The appeal to Whitehall of this proposed change is substantial. The responsibility for the college fee would, effectively, pass from ministers and officials to the universities. As the overall grant to Oxbridge gradually declines, they would be the ones faced with hard choices. The fee might disappear outright or, if it was to be preserved, either cuts would have to come elsewhere or the colleges would be obliged to liquidise their assets. In either example, the colleges would be set against each other or the centre.

If it comes to this, there is a third option which Oxbridge should embrace with vigour. That is to launch another, permanent, financial appeal to preserve the collegiate structure and tutorial system. There would be virtues in this innovation in any circumstances. It should not be the involuntary act of institutions desperate to secure survival.

This matter can still be determined by the Prime Minister. Mr Blair has often spoken of his passion for education. Oxbridge will shortly discover if he has an equivalent commitment to excellence.

HO, HO, HO, SLAP

He who pulls the beard of a legend should have a long arm

The slapping Santa of Rochdale broke the Christmas credibility Claus. He also ignored the seasonal spirit in that birthplace of the co-operative movement, which ought to treat its customers as stakeholders. He ruined Christmas for one small boy, and shattered the illusions of other children queueing to whisper shyly to Santa what they wanted for Christmas. So he should be reprimanded by Ofsled. But at least he struck a blow for freedom of information and full and frank disclosure of sauces, including brandy butter.

Eight-year-old Christopher Chantler, an inquisitive and rational child who promises to go far, asked Santa Claus how he had managed to cross Greater Manchester so fast when he had just seen him in another store a mile away. He then pulled his beard, which came away in his hand. What happened thereafter is disputed. Christopher, his mother and other witnesses say that Santa slapped Christopher's face sharply and strode away in a rage. The store owner says that Santa was simply trying to pull his beard back in order to maintain his cover, and accidentally struck Christopher. Santa Claus himself was not available for comment. But he has been replaced by a substitute red December 25-shirt in the grotto of the supermarket.

The average male goes through three Santa Claus stages in his lifetime. First, he believes in Santa Claus. Then, he does not believe in Santa Claus. And finally, he *is* Santa Claus. But the divisions between these three stages are not sharp, and they are blurred by bluff, anxiety to please and an eye for the main stocking. Anyway, so many legends surround Father Christmas that it is a mistake to insist that they should be verifiable or falsifiable. A legend that can last so long and spread so far needs no verification, but only suspension of disbelief.

A legend who can ride a flying sleigh drawn red-nosed reindeer, enter centrally-heated households down imaginary chimneys, and circumnavigate the globe during one winter night has his reasons that defy beard-pulling. The Father Christmas in stores and supermarkets, in their red uniforms and smelling festive after lunch, have become part of the tradition.

Everybody agrees that a small child excited by the magic of Christmas cannot be beat. Though if a stick is near to hand, the temptation can become almost irresistible. Master Chantler may have lost his childish innocence about Santa Claus, though it was probably time for him to move on to the next stage in the legend. But he has learnt a more important lesson for life. There are some questions that are better not asked. And if you pull the beard of Father Christmas, you should duck. But you may win a complimentary shopping voucher better than the trinket he was going to give you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London EI 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Vested interests distract from issues of climate change

From Dr Robin Russell-Jones

Sir, Failure to agree meaningful cuts in greenhouse gas emissions at Kyoto (report and article, "Warming to global change", December 11) is not just a failure for the United Nations; it is a failure of the entire democratic process and a betrayal by our generation of future generations. A simple view of democracy is that it depends upon the ability of individuals to make their voices heard above the clamour of vested interest.

In America vested interests have dominated the debate, subverted the democratic process and branded the environmental movement as extreme. Yet global warming threatens the ecosystems which sustain life on this planet and will probably lead to a massive breakdown of agricultural production within three generations.

What could be more extreme than that?

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RUSSELL-JONES,
Atholl House, Church Lane,
Stoke Poges SL2 4NZ.
December 11.

From Mr Richard Starkey

Sir, Dr Wilfred Beckerman (article, December 11) claims that the effects of climate change will "on balance, for the world as a whole ... be beneficial". But Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which includes many eminent economists, has stated that literature on this subject estimates the damage caused by a 2.5C warming at 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent of world GDP.

The group also stated that analyses indicated that 10 per cent to 30 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in most countries could be reduced at negative or zero cost. A large body of recent work suggests that these reductions could be as high as 60 per cent to 70 per cent. Hence the cost of preventing further climate change may not be nearly as high as many fear.

In my view there is no foundation for Dr Beckerman's concern that measures to prevent climate change must hurt the poor in the short term. Renewable sources of energy and efficient usage are in no way incompatible with improved energy services to rich and poor alike.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD STARKEY,
University of Huddersfield,
Centre for Corporate Environmental Management,
Queensgate, Huddersfield HD1 3DH.
December 11.

From Dr David Fleming

Sir, Contrary views are usually stimulating and entertaining, and Dr Wilfred Beckerman has been providing engaging examples of them for many years.

Car-fixated countries and profoundly ignorant business people all over the world are in continual search for justification for their stubborn refusal to engage with the climate-change issue. Dr Beckerman's article gives them all the excuse they need. With each raspberry blown against the painstaking science and politics of climate change the task of stabilising carbon emissions is put back, perhaps by years.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FLEMING (Director),
The Lean Economy Initiative,
104 South Hill Park,
Hampstead, NW3 2SN.
December 11.

From Professor Philip Stott

Sir, It is particularly rich of the European delegations at the Kyoto summit to criticise the proposed American compromise over gas emissions and enhanced greenhouse warming (reports, December 8, 9). If a full basket of greenhouse gases is taken into account Denmark, for example, is the fifth worst polluter in the world, on a per capita basis, behind the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Australia and Kuwait.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP STOTT
(Professor of Biogeography
in the University of London),
24 Clarence Place, Windmill Hill,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 1LD.
101555.2432@compuserve.com

From Professor Ian Fells, FEng, FRSE

Sir, Mr Nick Goodall of the British Wind Energy Association (letter, December 10) disputes my figure of 25,000 for the number of wind turbines required to generate 10 per cent of UK electricity (letter, December 4). Let me explain.

A standard wind turbine is rated at 600kW, so that to generate at 5,000MW (10 per cent of UK demand) would require 8,300 wind machines. Unfortunately the wind does not blow all the time and wind turbines only generate one third of their rated output, on average, through the year. So, rather simplistically, we would require 3 x 8,300 = 24,900 machines to meet 10 per cent of UK electricity demand.

It is important to be realistic about what can actually be achieved with renewable energy. Overoptimistic predictions, based on new wind machines still on the drawing board or solar cells ten times cheaper than they are today, lead to unsustainable predictions and disappointment.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FELLS,
29 Rectory Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1YB.
December 10.

Social Exclusion Unit's duty to all

From the Director General of Help the Aged

Sir, The creation of the Social Exclusion Unit (report, December 9) is a welcome innovation. It has two potential strengths: it is addressing the underlying causes of malaise rather than prescribing a remedy for a casualty, and it recognises the need for many policies to be owned and implemented by different units of government, working to a single aim and in partnerships.

The field of crime prevention illustrates these issues well. It is not solely a police matter — it depends on planners, designers, teachers and other professionals, and it involves local authorities, businesses and charities, as well as individuals.

Help the Aged would also expect the Social Exclusion Unit to turn its attention to older people. They are not marginal to society. Their numbers are growing and they need to be seen as a central part of policy evolution. Preventing their isolation and providing for their care needs is a challenge to a wide range of agencies.

The policy of care in the community, and promoting the successful independence of older people in their own homes, means getting right our strategies in housing, transport, volunteering, primary care and crime prevention too. And we need all the elements in place. Getting them nearly right is not good enough.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL LAKE,
Director General,
Help the Aged,
Clerkenwell Green, EC1R 0BE.
December 10.

From Ms P. A. Pakos

Sir, Whilst the objectives of the Social Exclusion Unit are honourable, its name belies the positive image that should be portrayed. I suggest a change of name to the Social Inclusion Unit.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. PAKOS,
4 Chapel Square,
Virginia Water GU25 4SZ.
December 9.

Labour and 'Today'

From Mr David Josephs

Sir, Has Labour learnt nothing from its long years in opposition? Its attempts to create a more polite interview environment on the *Today* programme (report, December 13) are foolhardy, and make them sound like the bleating Tories they succeeded.

Government policy has to be challenged and debated. John Humphrys interrupted Harriet Harman because she was steadfastly refusing to answer a direct question. She should know better.

The Tories lost on May 1 because the electorate had ceased to trust them. Labour should have learnt from this.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JOSEPHS,
49 High Street, Ecton,
Northamptonshire NN6 0QA.
djose10547@aol.com
December 13.

From Mr Colin Bridger

Sir, New Labour's wimps are whingeing because of John Humphrys's attempts to get a straight answer (for a change) from poor, defenceless Harriet Harman. I suggest that the BBC should send them tapes of previous broadcasts, in which Mr Mandelson repeatedly interrupted both interviewers and other participants.

Yours faithfully,
C. BRIDGER,
16 High Beeches, Frimley,
Camberley, Surrey GU16 5UG.
December 13.

Toyota and EMU

From Mr Tam Large

Sir, Europhiles, eager to suggest that Toyota's decision to build its new factory in France (reports, December 10) is due to our delay in joining EMU, predict further business losses unless we commit ourselves to the single currency. In reality, the company's move is more likely to be due to the Government's decision to give up our hard-won exemption and sign up to the social chapter.

Now that businesses in this country will face the same unwieldy and expensive workplace rules as the other member states, remaining in the UK will no longer be advantageous. It is capitulation to even more regulation through further integration with the EU which will harm inward investment and lose us our pre-eminent business position in Europe, not our scepticism about EMU.

Yours faithfully,
TAM LARGE,
Captains House, Streat BN6 8SB.
tamlarge@compuserve.com
December 11.

Hunting Bill

From Mr Richard Gallagher

Sir, Mr Anthony Loehnis (letter, December 9) criticises Mr Michael Foster, MP, for failing to explain to him the difference between those who inflict pain on fish and those who inflict pain on hunted mammals.

Mr Loehnis must always remember that an angler is a person whose greatest pleasure comes from pitting his wits against those of a fish.

Yours sincerely,
R. GALLAGHER,
13 Rowand Avenue,
Giffnock G46 7PE.
December 10.

The feasibility of linking schools

From the Director of Isis (Wales)

Sir, In welcoming the move to link more closely the work of the independent and maintained schools, Dr Harry Judge (letter, December 4) stresses that the "problem" is a peculiarly English — not British — one.

We in Isis (Wales) somewhat envy our Scottish colleagues on the arrangements they already share through the Scottish Office, and we are beginning conversations with a view to approaching that pattern in Wales, once the assembly is established. However, the present snags to implementing the proposals put forward by the Schools Standards Minister (report, November 27) are maybe more apparent here even than in England. This is to do with the history, and hence the generally small size, of our member schools, rather than any wish to create or sustain a social gulf between our pupils.

Whilst there are timetabling as well as financial difficulties in sharing facilities such as playing fields, swimming pools and sports halls, difficulties linked to any sharing of teaching are yet more complex. My members would not claim any exclusive provision of good teaching, but their schools' ambience and structures may make that teaching more readily effective.

Whilst it is possible to share teaching, for example in specialist subjects and even preparation for Oxbridge, even that could be unsettling to classes or individual pupils. Again, there is the practical need to look at supporting financial arrangements

Parents who pay for smaller classes, and for what they see as consequently more effective teaching, might at least expect those sharing them to subscribe as much as they do.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK EDWARDS,
Director, Wales, Independent Schools Information Service,
3 Heol Crwys, Fishguard SA65 9EJ.
December 5.

Lottery, tax and benefit

From Mr H. J. Baker

Sir, Libby Purves ("It could be us, at last", December 9) should understand that the National Lottery is rather like a voluntary tax. If enthusiasm abates, how is the Government going to make good the shortfall, after it has annexed (in bad faith) a growing slice of lottery funds?

Yours faithfully,
H. J. BAKER,
8 Grovelands,
Lower Bourne, Farnham, GU10 3RQ.
December 9.

From Mr Lawrence T. Roach

Sir, Libby Purves may be on to something. If the Prime Minister really thinks it is OK to fund part of government spending from the lottery, why not all of it? Each pound paid in taxes could buy a chance in the "UK Government Revenue Lottery".

If only one tenth of 1 per cent of total revenue were set aside for prizes, it would provide a wonderful incentive for taxpayers (or even ministers) to avoid tax-avoidance schemes.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. ROACH,
43 Ripon Way,
Borehamwood WD6 2HY.

From Mrs Anne Wolrige Gordon

Sir, Libby Purves says she is sick of being given £80.20 a month which she does not need. The answer is simple, she can, like a number of us in our time, refuse to claim the money. Nobody is forced to accept child benefit.

My husband's grandmother, Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod, who died in her 99th year, always refused to accept a state pension for the same reason.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE WOLRIGE GORDON,
Ythan Lodge, Newburgh,
Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 6AD.
December 9.

Coded message

From Major-General J. P. Crowdy

Sir, All of us who have to write our addresses on envelopes in longhand (and this surely includes millions currently sending their annual correspondence by way of a Christmas card) must wish for a minimalist form of addressing suggested by Mr William Fisher (letter, November 25). But even if we cannot reduce the address to a single line there is certainly a case, now that we all have postcodes, for omitting some of the unnecessary verbiage cluttering our envelopes.

Would Mr John Lancaster of the Royal Mail (letter, December 10), whose own address occupies an alarming five lines, allow us to drop, for example, the name of the postal town? Here in Devon we are exhorted to include this, in my case Newton Abbot, ten miles distant from Lustleigh, but I cannot see that it does much to help the postman; indeed, its addition only causes confusion for visitors searching for the village and, moreover, I note that many organisations in rural Devon have quietly dropped the town from their advertised address; their mail apparently continues to arrive with its customary speed and efficiency.

Yours faithfully,
JOE CROWDY,
Pepperdon Mine,
Lustleigh, Newton Abbot TQ13 9SN.
December 10.

From Mr Paul Dixon

Sir, Another result of postcodes is that the county name is omitted in favour of a postal town. Thus East Bergholt has acquired a Colchester number and the Suffolk squires of that fair village suddenly find themselves as Essex Men. There are, I am afraid, some in this village who wish our postal town was Ipswich so that the reverse could apply.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL DIXON,
Ivy House, Dedham,
Colchester CO7 6DE.
December 12.

Sport letters, page 32

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Ministerial 'nannies'

From Professor H. C. Higgins

Sir, In its pursuit of political correctness the Government may well have the power to ban the sale of beef and lamb on the bone, tobacco or alcohol (letters, December 13); but it does not have the power to ban us from buying these items.

Retailers and restaurants should, I suggest, adopt the tactics of the black market in World War Two to beat the imposed cost limit on meals. That is, offer the forbidden goods free while covering their costs by imposing a mandatory packaging and/or service charge.

Hopefully this may persuade the Government to simply state the health hazards of these items and leave the choice to buy or not to the people.

Yours faithfully,
HAL HIGGINS,
Court Cottage, The Green,
Hampton Court KG8 9BW.
December 13.

Keeping in touch

From Mr David Oldbury

Sir, Dr Brooke Barnett's suggestion (letter, December 12) that young ramblers should carry a mobile telephone is a good one in theory.

In many years of leading and supporting school parties of walkers, I have found that the wilder the country the slimmer the chances are that my mobile telephone will work.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID OLDBURY,
Mackean House,
The Precinct, Rochester ME1 1TD.
December 12.

From Mr Alan Robinson

Sir, If people are lost on moor or mountain they are by definition unaware of their location. How can they then tell a potential rescuer where to find them?

A Lake District mountain rescue team cites the case of a person who telephoned for directions from the summit of a mountain, the only problem being that he didn't know which mountain.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN ROBINSON,
Old Orchard, 25a Aylesbury Road,
Wing, Leighton Buzzard LU7 0PD.
December 12.

Short story

From Mr Colin Lambie Logue

Sir, In order to avoid a recruitment crisis in the Pope's Swiss Guard, officials won't change the rules but "turn a blind eye" to applicants below 5ft 8in (report, December 9).

That reminds me of the story of my great-uncle from Antrim who, at the start of World War One and as a very, very, young man, joined the Irish Guards.

He was only 5ft 3in but said that he lied about his height.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN LOGUE,
14 Woodland Avenue,
Lepton, Huddersfield HD8 0HZ.
December 9.

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SOCIAL NEWS

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend a carol concert at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, in aid of Home-Start, at 6.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as patron, Outward Bound Trust, will give a luncheon for the Outward Bound Patron's Company, at Frogmore House, Windsor, at 12.45.

The Prince of Wales, as president, the Bach Choir, will host a carol concert at St James's Palace at 6.00; and as president, The Prince's Trust, will attend the film premiere of *Spice*, at The Empire, Leicester Square, at 8.00.

The Princess Royal, as patron, Northern Lighthouse Board, will attend a meeting of the management committee, 84 George Street, Edinburgh, at 11.00; and will open a new building at the Scotch Whisky research institute, Heriot-Watt University Research Park, Riccarton, Edinburgh, at 2.20.

The Duke of Kent will visit Johnson Controls Automotive (United Kingdom), Oakham Business Park, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, at 12.05; and Ericsson Orbitel Mobile Communications, Lawn Road, Carlton-in-Lindrick, Worksop, at 1.40.

Princess Alexandra, as patron, will attend a "Celebration of Christmas", in aid of the Mental Health Foundation, at Guildhall, London, EC2, at 5.45.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Nero, 5th Roman Emperor AD54-68, Antium (Anzio), AD37; George Romney, portrait painter, Dalton-in-Furness, Lancashire, 1734; Charles Cowden Clarke, critic, Enfield, Middlesex, 1787; Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, builder of the tower bearing his name, Dijon, 1832; Niels Finsen, physician, Nobel laureate 1903, Törchauz, Faeroe Islands, 1860; Josef Hoffmann, architect, Pirnitz, Czechoslovakia, 1870; Maxwell Anderson, dramatist, Atlantic, Pennsylvania, 1888.

DEATHS: Jan Vermeer, painter, Delft, 1675; Isaac Walton, the "Father of Angling", Winchester, 1683; George Hickes, theologian, 1715; Benjamin Stillingfleet, naturalist, London, 1771; Charles Stanhope, 3rd Earl Stanhope, politician and man of science, Chevening, 1816; Georg Friedrich Grotefend, scholar, Frankfurt, 1853; Sir George Cayley, pioneer of aerodynamics, Scarborough, 1857; Sitting Bull, Chief of the Sioux, on Grand River, South Dakota, 1890; Gregory Rasputin, monk, favourite at the Russian court, murdered, St Petersburg, 1916; Wolfgang Pauli, physicist, Nobel laureate 1945, Zurich, 1958; Charles Laughton, actor, Hollywood, 1962; Walt Disney, animation cartoonist and film producer, Los Angeles, 1966.

The remains of Napoleon Bonaparte were deposited in Les Invalides, Paris, 1840.

Nylon yarn was first produced commercially, Delaware, 1939.

The Canadian Parliament adopted the maple leaf as the official symbol for the national flag, 1964.

Nature notes

Lesser redpoll

In the bare treetops, great spotted woodpeckers tap at dead branches to get at insects, and pick them up with their sticky tongues. The brilliant scarlet patch under their tail shines among the dark twigs. Flocks of young magpies chatter together among the boughs, weighing up possible mates for next spring. Redpolls have spread through most of the country for the winter: they are small, linnet-like birds with a red forehead, and are found mostly in birch and alder trees, though they will also come down to eat the seeds lingering on rosebay willow-herb. They fly fast and high, making a sharp twitter. On clear, frosty mornings there is often a burst of song in gardens from great tits and starlings. Many ash trees are clothed in dangling bunches of brown seeds or "keys", which take on an orange glow in the sunset. The ash buds that will become next year's leaves are like black claws. Maidenhair fern can be found on some walls: each leaf is like a cluster of small, pale green fans. A few buttercups are still in flower here and there in sheltered ditches. DJM

Two books by Derwent May, based on his *Times* articles, are published by Robson Books: *Feather Reports*, illustrated by Robin Jacques (£12.95, hardback), and *The New Times Nature Diary*, illustrated by Richard Blake (£6.99, paperback).

Birthdays today

Mr David Abell, former chairman and chief executive, Suter, 55; Mrs Valerie Aggett, former Principal, Holborn Law College, 47; Mr Michael Bogdanov, theatre director, 59; Mr Clive Brittain, racehorse trainer, 64; the Earl of Buckinghamshire, 53; Dr S.A. Checkley, psychiatrist, 52; Professor Ivor Crewe, Vice-Chancellor, Essex University, 52; Lord Croham, 80; Mr Lanfranco Dettori, jockey, 27; Sir Graham Dorey, Bailiff of Guernsey, 65; Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick, 68; Miss Ida Haendel, violinist, 73; Sir Henry Hardman, former civil servant, 92; Mr Don Johnson, actor, 48; Mr Joe Jordan, footballer 46; General Sir Frank Kitson, 71; Miss Henrietta Knight, racehorse trainer, 51; Deaconess Dr Una Kroll, writer and broadcaster, 72; Mr David McMurray, Headmaster, Oundle School, 60; Mr Oscar Niemeyer, architect, 90; Miss Edna O'Brien, writer, 61; Mr Brian Roper, Vice-Chancellor and chief executive, University of North London, 48; Commandant Anne Spencer, former director, WRNS, 58; Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas, FRS, Master, Peterhouse, Cambridge, 65; Professor M.H.F. Wilkins, FRS, biophysicist, 81.

Forces appointments

Royal Navy & Royal Marines

Commodore: K J C Day — Fosm Nwood HQ 26.3.98; P C Wykeham-Martin — Staff of 2SL/CNH 25.3.98.

Captain: R St J S Bishop — SA The Hague 13.3.98.

Lieutenant-colonel: R G T Lane — HQRM 5.6.98.

COMMANDER: C M L Clarke — MOD London 24.3.98; P Fisher — Staff of 2SL/CNH 9.12.97; H N Gale — Nato 19.5.98; R G Harding — Dartmouth BRNC 8.5.98; R Madge — HQAFNORTHWEST in rank of A/Capt 2.4.98; M J Robbins — MOD London 26.5.98.

Retirements

Brigadier: J J Thomson — 28.2.98.

Commander: R T Crouch — 1.3.98; J C Mundy — 23.1.98.

Surgeon commander: S C Sheard — 27.2.98.

Royal Air Force

Air commodore: J C O Luke — MOD, 15.12.97; P A Craword — MOD, 19.12.97.

Group captain: S P J Lilley — HQSTC, 5.12.97; R H Lacey — RAF Benson, 12.12.97; J J Witts — RAF NORTHOLT, 12.12.97; J A Upham — HQLC, 19.12.97; R F R Carr — HQSTC, 19.12.97; W J Taylor — HQPTC, 19.12.97; B G Benstead — MOD, 19.12.97; M J Good — MOD, 19.12.97.

Wing commander: I B Gibb — MOD(PE) SAP RIYADH, 15.11.97; M C Bullock — HQPTC, 17.11.97; G S Britton — MOD(PE) DGSAP HQ, 22.11.97; D G Barton — HQPTC, 24.11.97; C J Ozland — RAF BRAMPTON, 24.11.97; A H C Dyer-Perry — SRAFLO MILDENHALL, 24.11.97; I D Vacha — CEN DEF STAFF, 24.11.97; G A Jermy — CAMBERLEY, 1.12.97; P A Cunningham — RAF ALDERGROVE, 1.12.97; S G Footer — JSCSC BRACKNELL, 1.12.97; M J Wilkins — MOD AFD/DIFS, 2.12.97; T P Dean — RAF LOCKING, 8.12.97; J O Bates — D POL(ICS), 8.12.97.

Retirements

Group captain: I B Tiwari, 2.12.97.

Wing commander: D F W Ackroyd, 4.12.97.

Latest wills

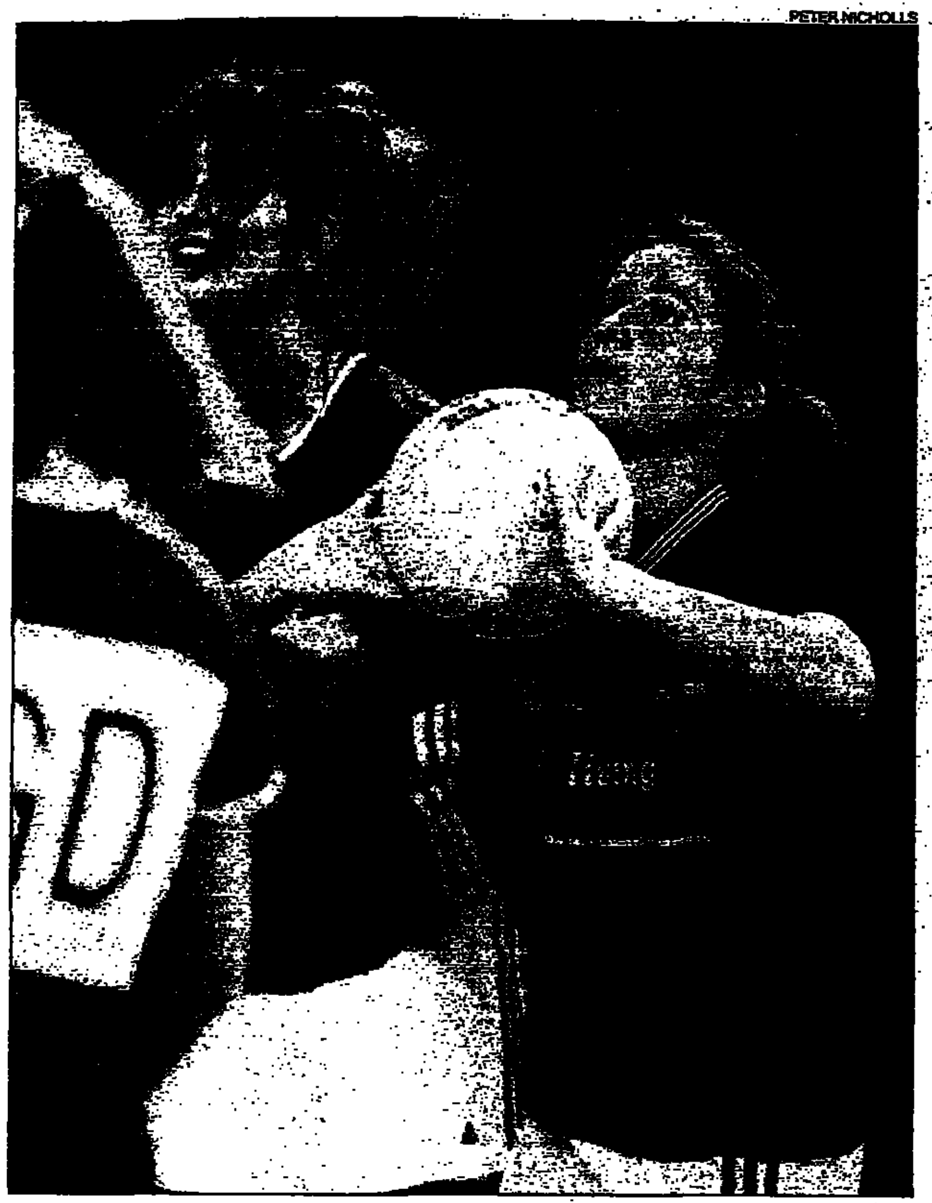
Hilda Mabel Blyth, of London SW3, left estate valued at £3,026,699 net.

She left £25,000 to the RNLI for the upkeep of lifeboats in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and to the Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Hospital, London; and £5,000 to King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers.

Horace Fred Hobbs, of Evercreech, Somerset, left estate valued at £3,156,268 net.

He left £10,000 to Cancer Research and to Parkinson's Disease Society; £5,000 to All Saints' church, Downhead, and to Dean Methodist church, Shepton Mallet.

PETER NICHOLLS


Patsy Palmer, right, the *EastEnders* actress, during a charity netball tournament in aid of breast cancer at Crystal Palace sports centre in South London yesterday

Archaeology

The right approach to Stonehenge

By Norman Hammond
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

STONEHENGE will remain a mystery until we approach it in the right way. Even the new northern access route does not allow us to see the monument as its builders intended, a leading British prehistorian claims.

"Understanding Stonehenge involves looking for clues about how access into the building was controlled," Dr John Barrett says. "The key lies in the monument's approach, from the northeast along an avenue defined by a double line of bank and ditch. This runs straight towards the stones from the dry valley of Stonehenge Bottom.

"If you walk along it up the slope of the valley side, something remarkable happens," Dr Barrett says in *British Archaeology*. "Initially Stonehenge is almost out of view, but, as you proceed, the monument immediately occupies, indeed dominates, the skyline. From this position it is possible to recognise from the perspective of the building and from the different heights of the stones the logic of what lies before you."

The "Heel Stone", today on the edge of the A344, was once part of a massive portal, leading into the earthwork circle, or henge, within which the great stone circles stand. The outer ring had a continuous lintel, acting "as a barrier or screen through which there is no obvious entrance gap", Dr Barrett says. The line up the avenue projects an entry point, however, as do the towering trilithons of the inner circle, visible even from afar.

"Without ever passing between the portal stones, the building has revealed something of itself — a series of enclosed spaces, the inner of which faces out towards those who approach," Dr Barrett says. "Inside, the area is small, the stones set close together, and the feeling one of restriction, with onward progress impossible. The only option is to turn and look back the way you have come. Around the time of midsummer those who moved up the avenue had walked towards the dying of the sun: by turning eastwards a new dawn could be observed, with the sun rising directly along the avenue.

"Those few — the centre of Stonehenge cannot contain many people — might have seen themselves as occupying a point about which the heavens and the seasons turned, the very centre of a sacred landscape," Dr Barrett suggests. "Stonehenge slowly reveals an order which is only finally experienced by entering the circle itself."

Visitors are denied this experience: even the new Larkhill access route will bring them in too far uphill and to the west. Closure of the A344, with a footpath descending into the valley then rising to meet the stones themselves rising from the earth, is the only way to grasp the secret of the builders' intentions.

Source: *British Archaeology* 29:8-9.

Marriages

Mr R.A. Nimmo
and Miss B.M.I. Goldsmith

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 13, in Pinner, Middlesex, of Rick Nimmo, son of Val and Dick Nimmo, of Melbourne, Australia, and Belinda Goldsmith, youngest daughter of Carl and Margaret Goldsmith, of Pinner.

Mr A.D.I. Ramsay
and Miss S.C.M. Pritchard

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 13, 1997, at St Mary's Parish Church, Funtington, of Mr Adam Ramsay, younger son of Commander David Ramsay, of Petersfield and the late Mrs Jane Ramsay, to Miss Suzanne Pritchard, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Charles Pritchard, of Chichester, West Sussex. Canon Johnson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Caroline Watson, Miss Gemma Rowntree, Charlotte Watson and Henry Stroud. Mr Christopher Ramsay was best man.

A reception was held at the Members enclosure, Goodwood, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Charles Malden

There will be a memorial concert to celebrate the life and work of Charles Malden on Saturday, February 14, in the Malden Theatre, Windlesham House, Sussex. If you wish to attend, please contact Mrs Judy Moody-Stuart before January 15 at 9 Gun House, 122 Wapping High Street, London E1 9NE. Tel: 0171 702 4456. Details of the Charles Malden Memorial Fund can also be obtained from Mrs Moody-Stuart.

Bradfield College

Term ended at Bradfield College on Thursday, December 11. Lady Ryder and Mrs Patience Thomson have been elected to the Council. At its meeting on December 3 the Council agreed to the development of a new boarding house for first year boys to open in September 1999, and, in concert with the Lawn Tennis Association and the English Sports Council, to the building of an Indoor Tennis Centre. On January 1, 1998, Mr John Rees succeeds Mr Julian Smyth as Director of the Bradfield Foundation.

Loughborough Grammar School

The Governors of the Loughborough Endowed Schools have great pleasure in announcing that Mr P.B. Fisher, MA (Christ Church, Oxford), currently Headmaster of Mount St Mary's College, is to succeed Mr D.N. Ireland, MA (Christ's College, Cambridge) as Headmaster of Loughborough Grammar School on September 1, 1998.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.H. Burnand
and Miss S.J.F. Mayfield

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr Paul Burnand, of Cambridge Place, London, and Mrs Fiona Hancock, of Marriage Farm, Wye, Kent, and Sara, younger daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Richard Mayfield, of Ewhurst Park, Hampshire.

Mr T. Cassano
and Miss S.L.D. Nathan

The engagement is announced between Terence, grandson of Mrs M.E.P. Finch, of Orpington, Kent, and Susanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P.C.D. Nathan, of Hartfield, Sussex.

Mr R.S. Elworthy
and Miss A.C. Larard

The engagement is announced between Sam, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Elworthy, of Loule, Portugal, and Annabel, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Larard, of Swarraton, Hampshire.

Dr A.J. Hart
and Dr N.L. Fersht

The engagement is announced between Alister, elder son of Mr and Dr Graeme Hart, of Sydenham, Devon, and Naomi, daughter of Professor and Mrs Alan Fersht, of Cambridge.

Mr S.F. Hunt
and Miss C.B. Leahy

The engagement is announced between Simon Francis, son of Mr and Mrs Graham Hunt, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, and Caoimhe Bebhinn, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Leahy, of Ballsbridge, Dublin.

Dr N.A. Lambert
and Miss J. Yang

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr Peter D. Lambert, of Alverstoke, Hampshire, and Mrs Frances J. Read, of Ballathie, Perthshire, and Jennifer, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Yang, of Pasadena, California, USA.

Mr J.G. MacDonald-Smith
and Miss E.F. Bury

The engagement is announced between James Grant, son of Mr and Mrs Iain MacDonald-Smith, of Totnes, Devon, and Eleanor Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bury, of Braunton, North Devon.

Mr R.A. Nunn
and Miss C.P. Burn

The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs Trevor Nunn, of Lymington, Hampshire, and Charlie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Burn, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr P.J. Whent
and Miss C.E. Laing

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Colonel and Mrs Aubrey Whent, of Beech, Hampshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Laing, of Slinfold, West Sussex.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

We ask God that you may receive from him full insight into all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that your manner of life may be worthy of the Lord and pleasing to him. Colossians 1 : 10,11

BIRTHS

BLAKER - On Tuesday December 9th 1997 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Sophie (née Lyons) and Adam, a daughter Clementine Mary.

BUNN - On 7th December 1997, to Jane (née Robb) and Nick, a treasured son, Jack Nicholas Alexander. With thanks to all at Kingston Hospital.

DEVLIN - On November 27th at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Karen (née Slavin) and Peter, a daughter, Catherine Mary Isobel. Deo Gratias.

FLEETWOOD - On November 28th, to Katie (née Truscott) and Christopher, a son, Peter James, a brother for Jonathan.

HOWARD-SNEYD - On 28th November 1997, to Ursula (née McCarthy) and Henry, a daughter, Chiara Zuleika.

RAYNER - On December 8th to Samantha (née Irving) and Colin, triplet daughters, Alice, Victoria and Isabella. Special thanks to Wexham Park Hospital.

DEATHS

CHAPPLE - Brian Bedford peacefully in King's College Hospital, London, on December 9th, loving husband to Wendy, father to Amanda and grandfather to Laura and Adam. Private cremation on 19th December but a Memorial Service to be held in London in the New Year. Family flowers only please but donations to King's College Liver Unit c/o Ford Mears & Partners, Frimley, tel: (01276) 25563.

DEAN - Edward on December 9th suddenly at home. Beloved husband of the late Sarah Alice and much loved father of Roger and Stephen, grandfather to Deborah and Caroline and great-grandfather of four. Funeral service at Eltham crematorium on Thursday December 18th at 3pm. Flowers to W. Uden & Sons Ltd (before 1pm), Queensway, Petts Wood, BR5 1DF. (01689 822291).

DUDGEON - Pam gently on 10th December. Widow of her loved Patrick and special mother to Charlotte and Murray, grandmother and friend to many. Funeral at Chichester crematorium on Thursday 18th December at 3pm. Family flowers only please donations if desired to Friends of the Elderly, 42, Ebury Street, London, SW1W 0LZ.

JUKES - John Andrew, much loved husband of Muriel and father of Margaret, Andrew, Rosemary and David, died peacefully in his sleep on 12th December 1997, aged 80. The funeral will be held at Christ Church, Christchurch Park, Sutton at 11.30am on Monday 22nd December. No flowers by request.

DEATHS

ROSEVEARE - Susan Caroline peacefully at home after a long illness bravely fought on 11th December. Beloved wife of Peter, mother of Helen, Christopher and Sarah and daughter of Peggy and Norman Lea. Funeral at St Barnabas Church, Dulwich, London SE21 on 19th December. Family flowers only. Donations to St Christopher's Hospice may be sent to A Yeatman & Sons, 384 Norwood Road, London SE27 9AA(0181 670 1127)

SELLS - Beryl Cecilia, suddenly but peacefully, on 10th December. Widow of David, much loved mother of Andrew, Oliver and James and adored grandmother. Funeral at St. Mary's Church, Guilden Morden at 2.30 pm on Thursday, 18th December. Family flowers only.

THOMAS - Joan Martin (née Williams) on December 7th 1997. Late of Pittwater Palms, Avalon. Much loved wife of Jack, dearly loved mother of Sue, JohnO and Meg. Donations if desired to the N.S.W. Cancer Council, 153 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo, 2011, N.S.W., Australia.

THOMPSON - Squadron Leader Derek, RAF retired, aged 61 on December 9th peacefully after a short illness bravely borne. Greatly loved husband of Margaret and father of Andrew, Christopher, Emma and Rachel. Funeral at Breakspear crematorium, Ruislip, on Friday 19th December at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations to Watford General Hospital I.T.U. Care Endowment Fund, c/o E.Spark Ltd, Funeral Directors, 104 Pinner Road, Northwood, Middlesex (01923 825372).

WEST - The Revd Anthony of Cerne Abbas, Dorset, on December 11th. Formerly Vicar of Brockham and Betchworth, Surrey. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Sadly missed by his family and many friends. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's, Cerne Abbas on Thursday December 18th at 2.30pm. A further Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Michael's, Betchworth on a date to be arranged early in the new year. No flowers but donations may be sent for Crisis or Intermediate Technology c/o Grassby Funeral Service, 16 Princes Street, Dorchester DT1 1TW.

WILSON - Donald Ness on December 8th 1997, suddenly at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. We thank God for him. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium December 18th at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Enquiries regarding Missionary donations may be made to A.B. Walker and Son Ltd. Tel: 0118 957 3650.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

HARDING - Edward Flt/Lt. R.A.F.V.R. 1924-1946. Loved and remembered. Today his birthday.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ROSS - Alan Alistair (Angus) OBE. Died December 15th 1984. Love's last gift - remembrance.

BIRTHDAYS

OFFSPRING Number One, 21 today: Benjamin Louis Damien William Wilkinson (made with the best ingredients)

WANTED

BICKLEY Martin & Dawn, artists whose pictures were sold in early 1970's in Heals Gallery. Does anyone know of their pictures or whereabouts? Reply: D Cullington, Vine House, Vicarage Road, London, SW14 8RS

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OBITUARIES

GIOVANNI AGNELLI

Giovanni Agnelli, heir to the Fiat empire, died on December 13 from intestinal cancer aged 33. He was born on April 19, 1964.

The Agnelli family enjoys a remarkable place in Italian public life, being enormously rich, powerful and glamorous, but also popular. Its interests range from the Juventus football team to mineral water, brewing, cement, munitions, food, tourism, textiles and financial services, as well as the production of Ferraris, Alfa Romeos, Lancias and Fiats. This empire is said to account for more than 5 per cent of Italy's economy.

The young Giovanni, nephew of the 76-year-old Gianni, the present patriarch, might easily have succumbed to the temptations that beguile younger members of other super-rich dynasties, but instead he spent his time preparing to take charge of the £35 billion conglomerate. He was expected to take over next year, until he was struck by cancer. He was married little more than a year ago and his daughter is only three months old.

Though publicity-shy, he inherited the classic Agnelli panache of his buccaneering uncle Gianni, and his personal popularity did much to restore the faith of Italians in an industrial class deeply discredited by the corruption scandal known as *tangentopoli* (bribe city) which erupted in 1992.

It was in that year that Gianni announced his decision to step down as chairman of Fiat, preparing the way for a planned succession that had already been troubling him for a decade. His own restless son, Edoardo, had shown more interest in Eastern philosophy than in producing cars, and in 1986 Cesare Romiti, then the company's chief executive, said "Edoardo has no role in any part of Fiat". From then on it was assumed that Giovanni would gradually take control.

Giovanni Alberto Agnelli was the son of Gianni's younger brother, Umberto, and of Antonella Bechi Piaggio, the owner of the Piaggio aircraft and scooter company. Discretion is much prized in the family, and much of the early life of Giovannino, as he was diminutively known, was clouded in secrecy. He attended the Instituto San Giuseppe in Turin, which was run by Roman Catholic monks and where his father had also been a pupil.

His parents were divorced when he was still a child, and his mother married Count Uberto Visconti di Modrone, taking Giovanni with her to live in the United States. He completed his schooling at the McCallie Academy in Tennessee and went on to study politics and economics at Brown University. His future Anglo-American wife, Avery Francis Howe, was also a student there, but they did not meet until later, at a meeting of alumni in London.

Giovanni returned to live in Italy and did his military service in the elite parachute regiment of the Carabinieri, Italy's paramilitary police force. After two months at officer training school in Turin, he made his first jumps while stationed at the Pisa airbase. He volunteered for frontline duty on the southern island of Pantalleria in the summer of 1986, when Libya caused alarm by firing a missile at the Italian coast. He once said he would have pursued a military career if it were not for his family destiny, and he agreed to model for a recruitment poster.

That destiny made him the object of much media interest, and an American women's magazine described him as "too beautiful to be true". His own attitude was touchingly modest. "There is not much to say about me," he told an interviewer from *La Repubblica*. "They taught me that one should appear in the newspapers only twice: when one is born and when one dies."

But in the debonair tradition of his uncle's youthful days on the French Riviera, he had many love affairs, and the gossip columnists wrote reverentially about a man they cast as an alpha Romeo. His best-known girlfriends included the actresses Antonella Interlenghi and Domiziano Giordano, the sisters Albiera and Alessia Antinori from the aristocratic Tuscan wine-growing Antinori family, and the Turin aristocrat Laura Avogrado di Collobiano. Imaginative reporters claimed that he had flirtations with Cindy Crawford and several others.

Like his uncle, Giovanni distinguished his elegance by some eccentric habits. While Gianni's trademark is to wear his wristwatch over his shirt cuff, his nephew always left his cufflinks unfastened.

He admitted he had few male friends, but as a fan of the family soccer team Juventus he enjoyed the camaraderie of its French player Michel Platini. Another friend, from their days in the Carabinieri, was Alberto Tomba, the Italian skiing champion.

After university, Giovanni spent two months working under an assumed name as a factory employee on a Fiat car assembly line at the Mirafiori plant, seeing the business from the lathe-operator's point of view. After a spell as a trainee with IBM in America, and a brief period with S G Warburg, he switched to learn about business in his mother's company, Piaggio, working first in its Madrid subsidiary and subsequently becoming chairman of the firm at its headquarters in Pontedera, near Pisa, where he lived in a magnificent 16th-century villa.

He proved his ability by turning round the company, which makes the whining Vespa scooters beloved of Italian youths. He was credited with turning a £12 million loss into a £20 million profit in three years, by overcoming the hostility of trade union leaders and finding new markets for the scooters in Asia.

His uncle's public announcement three years ago that Giovanni would take the reins at Fiat was seen as a shrewd move. Italy was going through a turbulent period, and questions were being asked about one man wielding so much power. The corruption scandal had not left Fiat unscathed. A judge was investigating alleged involvement in bribery by executives of a Fiat-controlled construction company, and Giovanni's reputation for honesty proved useful in polishing up a company image that had become rather tarnished.

Italians were impressed by him and his integrity, and they applauded his discreet wedding in 1996 to Avery Howe, the daughter of Sally Metcalfe, the interior designer, and Ralph Howe, an American golf champion.

Giovanni soon began to develop his ideas about the future of Italian industry, calling publicly for the country to develop a form of capitalism that "was more transparent, more subject to market forces". Rumours were reported that he had decided to challenge the executive Cesare Romiti over some questions of company strategy.

The discovery this year that Giovanni was suffering from a rare intestinal cancer threw open the succession problem once again. Giovanni disclosed the illness himself in a courageous interview with the Agnelli-controlled newspaper *La Stampa*.

He is survived by his wife and their daughter, Virginia Asia, who was born on September 16.

ERIC STARLING

Captain Eric Starling, former Flight Manager, Scotland, for British European Airways, died on November 15 aged 85. He was born in London on November 28, 1911.

DURING 40 years in aviation, Eric Starling logged 12,548 hours of flying on 45 different types of aircraft. His career took him from seat-of-the-pants flying, in biplanes without radios or navigation aids, to the gas-turbine era.

Between the wars he led the small band of airline pilots who pioneered air services to the remoter parts of Scotland and the northern isles, and he returned as chief pilot and flight manager in Scotland when BEA was formed in 1947. He remained with BEA for more than 20 years, ending up as its most senior pilot.

In between, he had a good war in RAF Coastal Command, flying anti-submarine and later air-sea rescue missions in Wellingtons, Warwicks and Liberators, from bases in Northern Ireland, Iceland, Egypt and India.

Eric Allen Starling was educated at Bishop's Stortford College, from where he went as an apprentice to the Redwing Aircraft factory at Croydon. He learnt to fly in 1931 but two years later, on a night flight from Croydon to Lympne to qualify for his commercial "B" licence, he completely lost his way. With fuel running perilously low, he found himself over a town he did not recognise and elected to put down in one of its well-lit but deserted streets. At 55mph he made a successful touchdown in what turned out to be the Boulevard des Alliés, Calais. In the mist, he had been completely unaware that he had crossed the Channel. He and his aircraft made the return journey by ship.

This was embarrassing, but had a positive spin-off. A short time afterwards at Gatwick (then a small private aerodrome) he was buttonholed by the wealthy, eccentric future Tory MP, Eric Gander Dower, who asked him if he was "the ass who landed in Calais last week". When Starling confessed that he was, Gander Dower replied: "Well, you're as mad as I am. I'm going to start an airline in Aberdeen. Come and join me."

So began Starling's career as a commercial pilot for Gander Dower's Aberdeen Airways, off a small grass strip at Dyce. He flew a variety of services to Glasgow and Orkney, as well as to the Shetland Islands, in the biplane DH Dragon, staple of many air services in those days, and the monoplane Short Scion. There was also, from 1937, a pioneering service from Newcastle to Stavanger, in Norway, although this could not operate in some of the ferocious winter conditions over the North Sea. Commercial airlines were quixotic operations at the time, and huge losses were stoically borne by Gander Dower.

Starling stayed with Aberdeen Airways until his marriage in January 1939, when he moved south to Sywell, Northamptonshire, to take up the more secure job of RAF flying instructor. In the earlier stages of the war he flew Wellingtons on convoy escort duties over the Atlantic, depth-charging a German U-boat on one occasion in October 1941 and being credited with a "probable" kill.

In January 1942 his squadron was sent out to Egypt, from where it flew reconnaissance missions to locate Axis shipping supplying Rommel's Afrika Korps, radioing back co-ordinates onto which RAF torpedo bombers could be vectored.

Returning to Britain, he was given command of a squadron of Warwick air-sea rescue aircraft (an enlarged form of the Wellington), which he subsequently took out to India. For the rest of the war he flew on search and rescue missions in the vast expanses of the Pacific, where the Warwicks were very soon replaced by American B24 Liberators with their vastly superior range.

After demobilisation, Starling moved north again, this time to Scottish Airways, run by Edmund Fresson, who had been Gander Dower's chief competitor before the war. For Scottish Airways, Starling flew Dragon Rapide services from Inverness to Orkney and Shetland.

But from 1947 onwards, Scotland's small private airways were squeezed by the state-owned BEA, and Starling was recruited as flight captain, Scotland, for the new airline. From the mid-1950s he was captaining jet-prop Viscounts on BEA's Rome, Athens and Istanbul routes. But by 1968 he was finding it difficult to pass routine intensive flying checks because, with responsibility for 60 other pilots, he was obliged to spend too much time behind a desk and not enough on the flightdeck.

So for the final years of his career he gratefully returned to a flying-intensive job as an air-ambulance pilot, flying Heron aircraft throughout the Highlands and Islands. His last flight, in October 1971, was to Islay, to collect two expectant mothers and bring them back to hospital in Glasgow. On that occasion an in-flight birth was only narrowly avoided.

Eric Starling was a fine pilot and a wonderful trainer of pilots. Many current captains with British Airways owe much of what they know to his tuition.

Starling's wife Eleanor died in 1981. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

LEONARD COOPER

Leonard Cooper, novelist and biographer, died on December 8 aged 97. He was born on December 5, 1900.

THOUGH born in Cheshire, Leonard Cooper was of Yorkshire stock. His grandfather and father successively controlled the family firm of Leonard Cooper Ltd, structural steel manufacturers in Leeds. His father had won a soccer Blue at Oxford as a goalkeeper. He was 6ft 6in tall and it was said that he could put his hand over the crossbar and scratch his head. Before the First World War he was a prominent player for the Corinthian Casuals.

His son, another Leonard Cooper, was educated at Radley and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he read Mods and Greats. He began his commercial life at the family steelworks and hated it. With the encouragement of his sister, Lettice Cooper, he, therefore, took up instead a writing career.

Too young to have served in the First World War, he was deemed too old for the Second, although in the years between he had been an enthusiastic TA soldier with the 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire Light Infantry.

In the Second World War, after the Fall of France, he became a commander of the Home Guard in his Yorkshire village of Settle. He used to say that they made Captain Mainwaring's company in *Dad's Army* look professional. At this time Cooper was working for a limestone company called Settle Limes.

An unfortunate libel suit, arising out of an early novel, combined with the coming of the war, caused him to temporaily to give up his literary ambitions, despite the critical success in the 1920s of two historical novels about Napoleon, *The Iron Cage* and *Little Island*, both published by Hodder & Stoughton. Later he turned to writing biographies, which included *Radical Jack: A Life of the First Earl of Durham*, which was a modest success, as was his life of *Havelock* and an excellent biography of R. S. Surtees, the creator of Jorrocks. He also wrote *Wellington and his Times, A History of the British Regular Cavalry* and a short history of The Yorkshire Light Infantry in the series edited by General Sir Brian Horrocks. Later he wrote a couple of thrillers.

An accomplished cricketer, a very talented musician and a considerable wit, he was perhaps overshadowed by the success of his sister, Lettice, whose own novel-writing career went from strength to strength. This did not, however, diminish his affection for her and his other sister, Barbara, also a novelist.

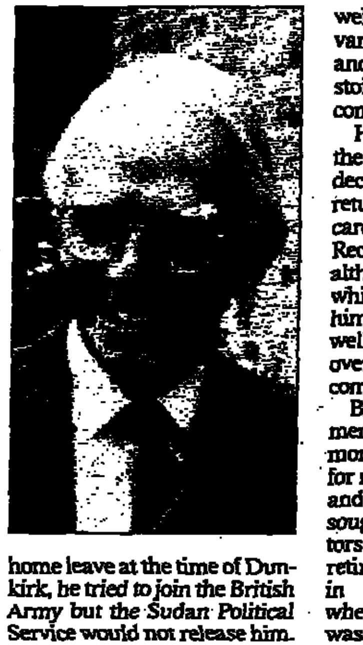
He lived in Long Preston in Yorkshire for nearly 40 years, and for much of that time was organist of the parish church. He was not popular with all of his vicars — not least because of his habit of pressing the button to start up the organ for the last hymn if he thought their sermons were going on too long.

For many years he worked for the Canada Life Assurance Company in Leeds, which he loathed, and unfortunately by the time he retired he had lost the will or energy to write.

His later years, after the death of his wife, Stella, 15 years ago, were spent in gentle retirement in the house of his daughter, Rosemary, near Coltishall in Norfolk. He is survived by her and by two sons — Leo, the publisher, and John, the chief education officer of the National Portrait Gallery.

EDWARD BICKERSTETH

Edward Jelf Bickersteth, former member of the Sudan Political Service, died on December 10 aged 82. He was born on April 27, 1915.



TED BICKERSTETH, as he was known to his friends, was born into a family with a remarkable tradition of service to the Church of England. His younger brother John, Bishop of Bath and Wells from 1975 to 1987, represented the fifth generation of the Bickersteth family to be ordained. His father, Canon Monier Bickersteth, was for many years secretary to the Jerusalem and the East Mission.

By temperament and talent, Edward Jelf Bickersteth was fully qualified to follow in his forebears' footsteps by taking Holy Orders. Instead, he dedicated himself to a career in the Colonial Service. He was educated at Haileybury and Christ Church, Oxford, and in 1936, after two testing and sometimes dangerous years in Palestine as ADC to the High Commissioner, Sir Harold MacMichael, he entered the Sudan Political Service.

From the start, his openness and good humour endeared him to the Sudanese, and he became a very successful district commissioner. In 1940, on home leave at the time of Dunkirk, he tried to join the British Army but the Sudan Political Service would not release him. A year later he volunteered for the Sudan Defence Force and served for two and a half years as a *bimbashi* (major) in the Equatorial Corps fighting in Abyssinia.

His war service did nothing to hold back his career, and he was promoted to deputy governor of Khartoum at the early age of 43. However, his prospects were shattered when Sudan became independent and the Sudan Political Service was wound up. He welcomed the consequent advance for his Sudanese friends and bore his own misfortune stoically, never giving way to complaint or recrimination.

He was asked to stay on by the new Government but decided, rightly or wrongly, to return home to make a new career in industry. He joined Reckitt & Colman in Hull, and although this was not work for which his abilities best suited him, he stuck to it loyally, was well liked and ended up as an overseas director of the company.

Bickersteth was an active member of the Royal Commonwealth Society, serving for many years as its treasurer and being always eagerly sought out by Sudanese visitors to this country. When he retired to a much-loved house in the Close at Salisbury, where he lived for 20 years, he was an assiduous steward at the cathedral, treasurer of the Salisbury and Wells Theological College, and a keen supporter of cathedral causes generally, serving for a time as acting chairman of the Cathedral Friends.

He expressed his Christian faith in a lifetime of disinterested work, and will be remembered for his loyalty, charm and good humour. He married Elspeth Cameron in 1947. He leaves his widow and three sons.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Roger Arguile, Priest-in-Charge, St Neot's St Mary (Ely): to be Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Simon Burton-Jones, Curate, Biggin Hill St Mark (Rochester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Bromley St Mary (same diocese).

The Rev Stephen Conway, Vicar, Cockerton (Durham): to be Senior Chaplain, and Press and Communications Officer to the Bishop of Durham.

The Rev Martin Gillham, Priest-in-Charge, West Wycombe w Bledlow Ridge, Bradenham and Radnage (Oxford): to be half-time Priest-in-Charge, same benefice, and half-time Provincial Chaplain (same diocese).

The Rev Pat Gillham, Curate, West Wycombe w Bledlow Ridge, Bradenham and Radnage (Oxford): to be half-time Curate, same benefice.

The Rev Harold Goddard, Priest-in-Charge, Sedgeberrow w Hinton-on-the-Green (Worcester): also Rural Dean of Evesham (same diocese).

The Rev Lindsey Goodhew, formerly Assistant Curate, Bishopsworth (Bristol): NSM Curate, Cambridge St Mark (Ely).

The Rev Ann Hadley, Vicar, Myddle and Broughton, and Lichfield Diocesan Vocations Adviser: to be also Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral.

The Rev Neil Jefferyes (SIC), Vicar, Caverswall and Weston Coyney w Dilhorne, and Rural Dean of Cheadle (Lichfield): to be also Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral.

The Rev Vivienne Lucas, Curate, Isleworth St John the Baptist (London): to be Priest-in-Charge, Isleworth St Mary the Virgin (same diocese).

The Rev Neil MacGregor, Rector, Wem, and Lee Brockhurst, Priest-in-Charge, Loppington w Newtown, and Rural Dean of Wem and Whitchurch (Lichfield): to be also Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral.

The Rev James Neal, Assistant Curate, Little Stanmore St Lawrence (London): to be Assistant Curate, Wood Green w Bounds Green (same diocese).

The Rev Elizabeth Pickett, permission to officiate (Winchester): to be NSM Assistant Curate, Colby Christ Church (same diocese).

The Rev Capt Ross Northing, CA, Assistant Curate, Up Hatherley St Philip and St James (Gloucester): to be Vicar, Stony Stratford St Mary and St Giles, and Calverton All Saints' (Oxford).

The Rev Timothy West, Team Rector, Melbury (Salisbury): to be Team Rector, Preston w Sutton Poyntz and Osmington w Poxwell (same diocese).

The Rev Rick White, Assistant Chaplain, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust; to be Chaplain, Central Nottinghamshire Healthcare (NHS) Trust.

The Rev Geoffrey Wilkinson, NSM Assistant Curate, Skegness and Winthorpe, and Assistant Community Mental Health Chaplain (Lincoln): to be Community Mental Health Chaplain, and licensed general preacher (same diocese).

The Rev David Young, Community Mental Health Chaplain (Lincoln): to be Assistant Community Mental Health Chaplain, and licensed general preacher (same diocese).

The Rev Carolyn Zotov, Assistant Curate, Ingham w Cammeringham w Fillingham (Lincoln): to be Assistant Curate, The Lincoln Minster Group.

Retirements & resignations

The Rev Peter Blackburn, Chaplain, The Algarve St Vincent, Portugal (Europe), resigned November 3.

The Rev Robin Everett, Rector, Ibstock w Heather (Leicester), to retire January 31.

The Rev John Fagan, Priest-in-Charge, Stonnall (Lichfield), retired September 30.

The Rev Canon Gerald Kaye, Vicar, Slough St Paul (Oxford), retired November 30.

The Rev Gordon Murray, Rector, Walworth St Peter (Southwark), to resign January 13.

Other appointments

Lieutenant-Colonel John Darlington to be a Lay Canon of Salisbury Cathedral.

believes in Santa Claus. Then, he does not

trinket he was going to give you.

December 10.

ON THIS DAY

December 15, 1906

More than 90 years ago, giving a lecture on "Cancer: Its Treatment by Modern Methods", the lecturer admitted that radical surgery seemed the best option and even then no cure could be promised

THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

The Bradshaw lecture was delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons by Mr. Edmund Owen, vice-president of the college, who took for his subject "Cancer: Its Treatment by Modern Methods."

After paying a tribute to the late Mr. Bradshaw, in whose memory the lectureship was founded by his widow, Mr. Owen began his remarks with an absolute statement that in the present state of medical and surgical knowledge and experience the only way in which the cure of a cancer could be obtained was by its prompt and thorough removal by operation. When a surgeon had made up his mind that a growth was malignant, and that it could and ought to be removed, he should lose no time. In spite of its unfortuante associations he ventured to apply the quotation —

"If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly."

The surgeon would probably be asked forthwith as to the nature of the operation advised, and this question might possibly be followed by the rejoinder that in no circumstances would consent be given to an operation by the knife. And so it came about that a surgeon was sometimes unwillingly led to discuss the problem of treatment by X-rays or by some other method based upon electricity when his opinion was that reliance ought not to be placed on anything short of a cutting operation. Thus to fall in with a patient's wish was not kindness. No surgeon in a desire to lessen mental distress or allay the dread which a patinet might have of a tumour being removed by the knife should be led to consent to his or her dallying with any problematical scheme of treatment. In the desire to try the effect of specious methods, patients might be led to waste time — and time was everything in the treatment of cancer. The public had apparently the idea that somewhere in the invisible spectrum, beyond the X-rays, they were to find certain "rays of hope"; and to these they clung with increasing tenacity when they learnt from the surgeon that, even if he were allowed to deal with a cancerous growth by a free cutting operation, he still was unable to promise a cure. And, unfortunately, no operator could ever be justified in making such a promise. Treatment was, unfortunately, not the same thing as cure, and the most effectual treatment for cancer, no matter how small it might be, was still removal by the knife. No measure was so trustworthy as this, and the great advantage it had over every other was that it enabled the surgeon to take away also the neighbouring lymphatics and the out-lying lymphatic glands. But all that the surgeon was at present justified in promising a patient was that he would "do his best."

After reviewing the modern surgical procedure for the thorough removal of malignant disease in certain situations and incidentally drawing attention to the pioneer work of the late Sir William Banks in this direction, the lecturer proceeded to consider some other methods of treatment.

THE METHOD BY LOCAL STARVATION.

Dr. Dawbarn, of New York, had recently founded a method of treatment on the well-known fact that when a tissue is deprived of its needful supplies of blood it becomes degenerate; he described it as the "starvation operation for malignancy in the external carotid area," and modestly asked that it might be allowed the justice of a thorough study and trial, by which alone its corroboration or overthrow would be effected. Dr. Dawbarn seemed to be disappointed that so few surgeons had made trial of the method. But, inasmuch as it entailed a great demand upon the resources of the patient, as well as upon the determination and enterprise of the surgeon, there was small wonder if, on looking back, he saw but a few of his *confrères* following in his steps.

هكذا من الأجل

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY DECEMBER 15 1997

NEWS

Robinson fails to silence critics

■ Geoffrey Robinson was fighting to save his ministerial career last night after John Prescott offered him only lukewarm support in the controversy over his financial affairs, prompting Conservative demands that he resign.

Mr Robinson's difficulties grew when Mr Prescott said that the *Paymaster General* had appeared to say "one thing [and] perhaps done another" .... **Pages 1, 2**

Trimble may meet Adams

■ David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, raised the possibility of holding an unprecedented face-to-face meeting with Gerry Adams — an idea he once described as "repulsive". The move came after Republican rioters threw more than 1,000 petrol bombs at police during a night of violence in Londonderry .... **Page 1**

Benefits pressure

Tony Blair was facing mounting pressure to rule out cutting disability benefits amid warnings of growing opposition among Labour backbenchers .... **Page 1**

The Queen's money

The Queen has agreed that she will open up the account books and records of the Royal Household to the scrutiny for the first time .... **Page 2**

Trawler raised

The trawler *Sapphire*, which sank with the loss of four crew more than ten weeks ago, was finally recovered from the seabed at the end of a troubled salvage operation .... ***Page 3***

Leggings action

A 15-stone American businesswoman who says she was a victim of "sizeism" when she was thrown out of Harrods for wearing leggings she bought in the store is to sue for damages**Page 5**

Cambridge thanks

The son of a fishmonger from the East End of London never forgot *how a year at Cambridge put him* on course for a successful business career. Now Dennis Gillings has become one of the university's largest donors .... **Page 6**

Class dream

John Major's dream of a classless society remains just that, researchers commissioned by his Government have found .. **Page 7**

Date rape drug

Warnings are being sent to schools about the number of teenage girls who are being sexually attacked after being given "date rape" drugs that are freely available in Britain .... **Page 8**

Rhinos return

Sunjai and Chubagu, two young black rhinos raised on a game ranch, will begin their journey to the wild this week .... **Page 10**

France accused

The chief prosecutor at the Bosnian war crimes tribunal in The Hague has accused France of allowing the southeast sector of Bosnia under its control to *become a haven for indicted war* criminals .... **Page 11**

Iranian offer

In the most forthright call for better relations with the United States since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran's moderate new President said that he wanted to hold a dialogue .... **Page 12**

Bumpy European ride

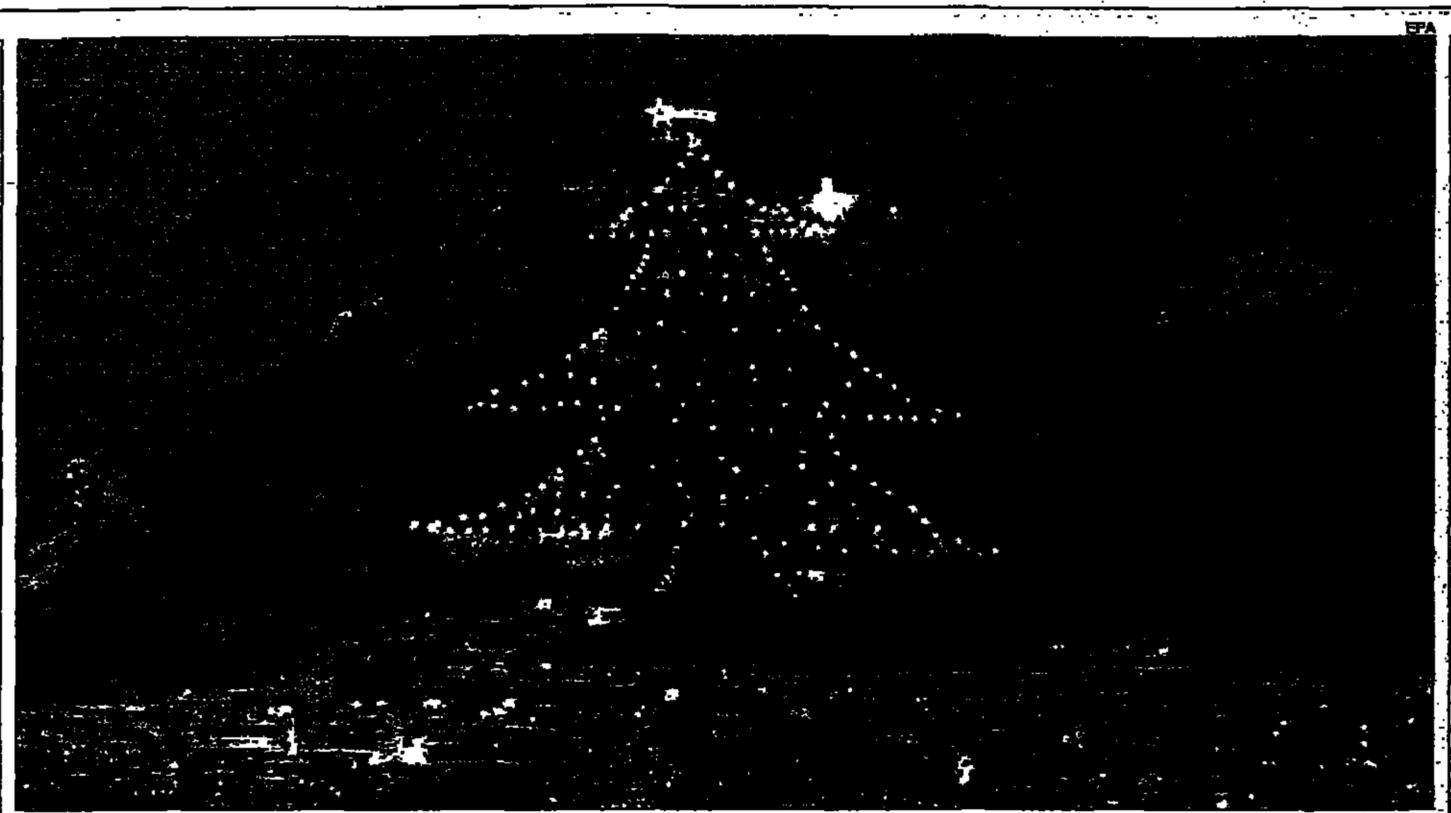
Britain's turn at the European *Union presidency may be heading* for a bumpy start next month after an ill-tempered summit in Luxembourg .... **Page 13**

Financial turmoil

Asia's financial turmoil hung over the start of the largest-ever regional summit amid warnings that there was no quick fix for the crisis .... **Page 14**

Facing the reality of Christmas

■ A boy's illusion of Christmas was shattered when he was hit in the face as he tried to unmask a supermarket Santa. Christopher Chantler, 8, was amazed to find Santa sitting in his grotto when he had just seen him less than a mile away in another shop. Santa said he had flown but the boy was not convinced and tried to pull off his whiskers .... **Page 1**


EPA

The world's biggest "Christmas tree" has been picked out with lights on the side of a mountain overlooking Gubbio in Umbria, Italy

BUSINESS

South Korea's central bank is poised for massive intervention in Asia's turbulent financial markets as the Government seeks to reassert control .... **Page 48**

Disposal: Lonrho has agreed to sell Dutton-Forshaw, its UK car dealership business, for £105 million to a management buyout team backed by CVC Partners .... **Page 48**

Going going... Hundreds of senior auctioneers at Christie's, the international auction house, will share £5 million if a takeover approach by SBC Warburg, the merchant bank, is agreed .... **Page 48**

Pension shake-up: Howard Davies, chairman of the Financial Services Authority, today calls for an urgent review of Inland Revenue pension rules .... **Page 48**

FEATURES

Model pupil: It's the essence of schoolboy fantasy — a putative supermodel appearing at the sixth-form ball. Yet few of the boys at the Wells Cathedral School will bat an eyelid when Olivia Inge, legs up to her armpits, 6ft in high heels, makes her entrance at their end-of-the-year bash .... **Page 16**

All change: The tweed-clad stalwart of the constituencies has gone. Moira Petty hails the arrival of the chic, independent, career-minded Conservative spouse .... **Page 17**

MIND AND MATTER

Present and correct: The giving of Christmas presents says a lot more about the relationship between giver and recipient than people think. Anjana Ahuja reports .... **Page 15**

[illegible]

Melvyn Bragg: "A slag heap is a high mound of waste material which accumulates over many years. The arts in Britain are full of them. If Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is to shift them, he needs a lot of support" .... **Page 18**

Musical laughs: Welsh National Opera unveils an uproariously funny production of Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea* .... **Page 18**

Gay time: Julian Clary, the self-styled "renowned homosexual", brings a new show to the West End that is guaranteed to delight his followers .... **Page 19**

Class act: The Old Vic's Christmas show, *Slava's Snowshow*, features superior clowning from Slava Polunin, and his fellow performer Angela de Castro .... **Page 19**

[illegible]

Football: Bolton Wanderers came from 3-1 down to force a draw with Derby County in yesterday's free-flowing FA Carling Premiership game .... **Page 28**

Rugby union: Bath conceded 50 points in a league match for the time as they were crushed by Saracens, leaders of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, at Vicarage Road .... **Page 35**

Cricket: England are virtually certain of a place in the final of the Champions Trophy in Sharjah after their convincing win over West Indies .... **Page 27**

Winter Olympics: After a bronze medal in the European championships, the British curling team will be among the favourites for gold at the Winter Games in Japan in February .... **Page 33**

Swimming: James Hickman was named outstanding competitor at the British championships at Sheffield after breaking the two longest standing records .... **Page 36**

Racing: It will be a grey Christmas at Kempton if Senor El Betrutti, an impressive Cheltenham winner, lines up against One Man and Suny Bay .... **Page 38**

[illegible]

3, 4, 11, 14, 30, 32. Bonus: 46

Two tickets each won £4,060,995; 13 won £192,236 for five balls and the bonus; 903 won £1,729 for five balls; *56,826 won £60 for four balls; and* 1,120,870 won £10 for three.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**

Thirteen years and one billion dollars later, the Getty Center opens its doors to the public

■ **LAW**

Should jury trial for complex fraud cases be scrapped?

[illegible]

Preview: A bomb scare rocks the Adelphi: *Hotel* (BBC-1, 9.30pm) **Review:** MSS (Moronic Speech Syndrome) is the biggest risk of an awards programme, says Peter Barnard .... **Pages 46, 47**

OPINION

Onshore trust

The shift in emphasis between Geoffrey Robinson's position at the outset and the explanation now outlined is so stark as to call into question his credibility .... **Page 21**

Cutting by degrees

Mr Blair has often spoken of his passion for education. Oxbridge will discover if he has an equivalent commitment to excellence . **Page 21**

Ho, ho, ho, slap

Everybody agrees that a small child excited by Christmas cannot be beat. Though if a stick is near to hand, the temptation can become almost irresistible .... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Microsoft has developed the most powerful monopoly in human history, even more powerful than the monopoly John D. Rockefeller built in Standard Oil .... **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

Don't put your daughter on the stage Mrs Worthington. Consider, instead, her becoming a Government inspector .... **Page 20**

TONY BLAIR

The EU invitation to former Communist countries was a truly historic development which we will take *forward* .... ***Page 20***

OBITUARIES

Giovanni Agnelli; Eric Starling, BEA manager; **Leonard Cooper,** novelist; **Edward Bickersteth,** Sudan civil servant .... **Page 23**

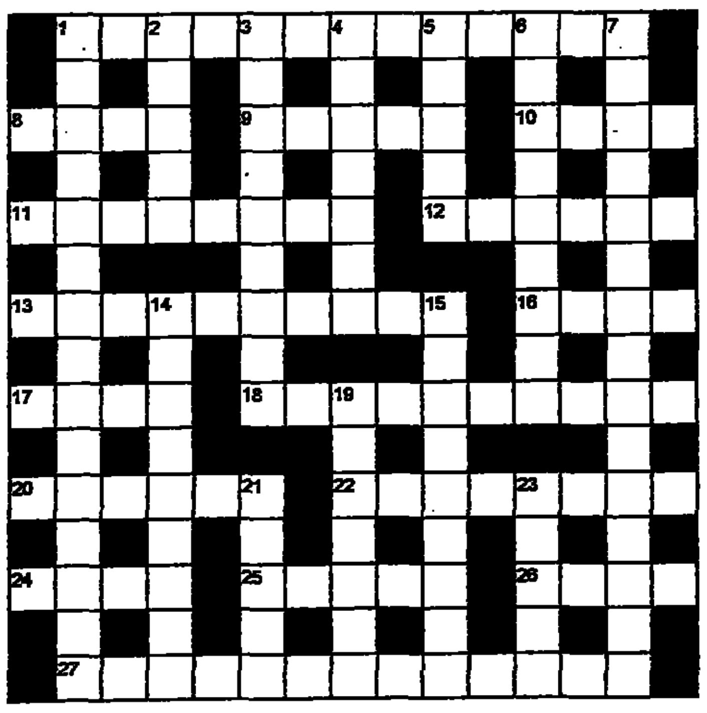
LETTERS

Climate change; social exclusion unit; maintained schools; Labour and John Humphreys .... **Page 21**

THE PAPERS

Luxembourg agreed a timetable for enlargement. Germany wants it into *proceed as rapidly as possible* to bring in its Central European neighbours. Italy wants internal reform before enlargement proceeds. Germany is driven by electoral considerations while the rest *seem uncertain how to move forward* — *La Stampa*, Turin

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,663



ACROSS

1 Embarrassing, dancing without partner? Sure thing! (13).
8 Terribly sweet, with no end of *daintiness?* (4).
9 Economically treat novel hero introduced in second page (5).
10 Fellow demanding insurance right away (4).
11 Pay a cover charge when he does the serving? (8).
12 Be back in time for discussion (6).
13 Belief in state that's perfectly planned out in map is silly (10).
16 The main conclusion in that case (4).
17 Dwelling in these *mills* (4).
18 Rider on Oriental expedition galloped across island (10).
20 *Familiar member of society* (6).
22 Son and close relative housing old plane, perhaps (8).
24 Objection over English television (4).
25 Papal diadem represented by retiring Italian painter (5).
26 Report of partners being held by opponents (4).
27 *Haphazardly directs island transport according to judgment* (13).

DOWN

1 Completely *finish* drink he produced with a mill (4,2,3,6).
2 *Man of fashion,* a cause of *ill-feeling* at sea? (5).
3 Find saint to be unusually stubborn (9).
4 Wine greeting worker in Channel Islands (7).
5 Fleet captures ship, ultimately, in attack (5).
6 Home on island peak, where culture can thrive (9).
7 A poulterer wouldn't spill the beans like this (4,3,4,4).
14 *As valuable* as the Kohinoor? Very funny! (9).
15 Sweetener given in old Russia mostly produced trouble (9).
19 Arrogant newcomer riding horse over jump (7).
21 Set up *disincentives,* so firm hasn't mined (5).
23 To sunbathe, good minimal piece of apparel? (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,662 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
8.00 am	3.52 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
8.42 am	5.46 pm

Last quarter December 21
London 3.52 pm to 8.01 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.10 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.39 am
Manchester 3.49 pm to 8.20 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.15 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** Much colder than recently, with a keen east or southeast wind making it feel much colder than the temperature would suggest. Cloudy with light showers, turning to snow in East Anglia, SE England and the Midlands. Wales, NW western Scotland and N Ireland mainly dry. Eastern Scotland cloudy with light showers near coast.

Tonight, very cold with a widespread frost. England and Wales will have light snow showers. Northern Ireland and Scotland will have a few clear spells, but east facing coasts will have wintry showers.

☐ **London, SE, E, NE England, E Anglia:** Very cold, mainly cloudy, with light sleet or snow showers. Brisk E wind. Max 5C (41F).
☐ **Cent S, Cent N England, E Midlands:** Very cold with risk of wintry showers later. Brisk easterly wind. Max 6C (43F).
☐ **W Midlands, Channel Is, SW, NW England, Wales, Lakes, IoM:** Mainly dry with sunny spells but becoming colder with wintry showers possible later. Brisk easterly wind. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** Cloudy with light showers. Cold in brisk SE wind. Max 6C (43F).
☐ **SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** Mainly dry with sunny spells, but cold in brisk southeasterly wind. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** Cold, mostly cloudy, mainly dry. Brisk SE wind. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **N Ireland:** Sunny spells, but becoming much colder later with showers likely. Fresh southeasterly wind. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **Irish Republic:** Dry, cloudy, but bright spells in west and north. Fresh, locally strong, bitingly cold E or SE wind. Max 10C (50F).
☐ **Outlook:** Very cold with overnight frosts. Light snow showers in south and east, but NW areas quite sunny. Later in week, rain preceded by snow and freezing rain will spread from southwest; then milder.

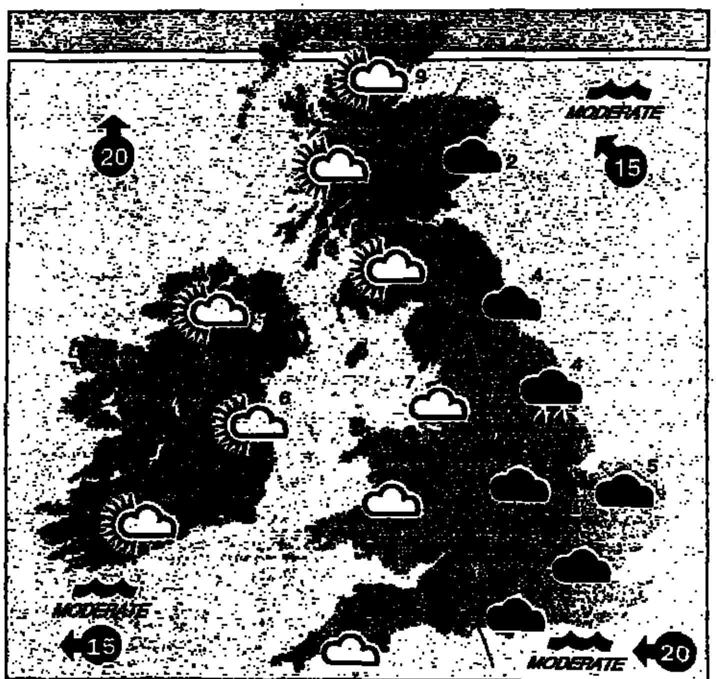
AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

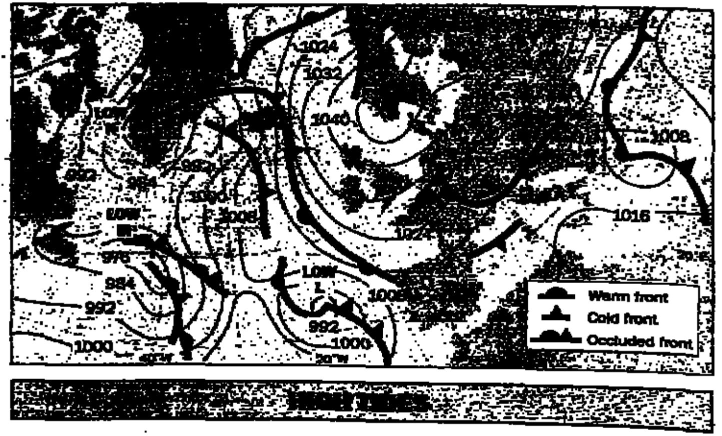
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.5	-	7	45	fg	Isle-of-man	-	0.01	11	52	c
Anglesey	4.8	0.01	10	50	s	Isle-of-wight	3.6	0.01	11	52	s
Aspatria	1.0	-	9	48	c	Jersey	5.7	-	9	48	s
Aviemore	0.1	0.01	7	45	b	Kinloss	5.6	0.01	9	48	s
Belfast	1.5	0.01	11	52	s	Leeds	4.8	-	10	50	s
Birmingham	1.1	-	9	48	s	London	6.8	-	9	48	s
Bognor R	5.4	-	9	48	s	Lowestoft	0.3	0.01	8	46	sh
Bournem'th	4.8	-	9	48	s	Manchester	2.2	-	10	50	s
Bristol	3.5	-	11	52	b	Margate	1.0	-	9	48	b
Buxton	2.9	0.01	7	45	s	Minehead	7.0	-	10	50	s
Cardiff	6.8	-	10	50	s	Morecambe	1.3	-	9	48	b
Clacton	3.8	-	7	45	s	Newcastle	1.6	0.01	7	45	d
Cleethorpes	X					Norwich	-	0.01	8	46	c
Colwyn Bay	4.8	-	11	52	s	Oxford	1.7	-	10	50	c
Cromer	0.1	0.01	8	46	c	Penzance	X	-	11	52	s
Dunbar	X					Poole	4.5	-	10	50	s
Eastbourne	7.0	-	10	50	s	Prestatyn	X	-	12	54	s
Edinburgh	-	0.01	8	46	c	Ross-o-wye	1.3	0.01	9	48	b
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	7	45	du	Shrewsbury	0.4	0.01	8	46	fg
Exmouth	3.8	-	10	50	b	Southend	5.5	-	9	48	s
Falmouth	7.2	-	12	54	s	Southport	-	0.03	8	46	du
Fishguard	6.2	-	9	48	s	Stornoway	-	0.01	11	52	d
Folkestone	X					Swanage	5.0	-	10	50	s
Glasgow	X					Teignmouth	3.5	-	11	52	b
Guernsey	X					Tenby	8.7	-	11	52	s
Hastings	7.0	-	10	50	s	Tiree	-	0.01	11	52	d
Hayling I	4.9	-	11	52	s	Torquay	3.2	-	12	54	s
Herne Bay	3.9	-	8	46	s	Tynemouth	-	0.01	8	46	c
Hove	3.9	-	11	52	s	West-s-mare	5.8	-	11	52	b
Hunstanton	X	-	7	45	c	Weymouth	5.4	-	11	52	s

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	s	C'phagn	3	37	c	Malaga	16	61	c	S Paulo	X		
Akrotiri	19	66	s	Dublin	8	46	s	Malta	16	61	f	Salzburg	4	39	r
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Melb'rne	23	73	f	Santiago	23	73	s
Algiers	16	61	f	Faro	15	59	s	Mexico C	17	63	f	Seoul	3	37	s
Amst'dm	9	48	f	Florence	11	52	s	Miami	23	73	r	Sing'por	31	88	f
Athens	17	63	f	Frankfurt	8	46	s	Milan	16	61	f	St'kholm	-1	30	c
B Aires	23	73	c	Funchal	20	68	f	Montreal	0	32	X	Strasb'rg	7	45	f
Bahrain	21	70	s	Geneva	6	43	c	Moscow	-7	19	sn	Sydney	32	90	s
Bangkok	32	90	s	Gibraltar	17	63	f	Munich	4	39	c	Tangier	19	66	f
Barbados	28	82	f	Helsinki	-3	27	sn	N Delhi	17	63	f	Tel Aviv	15	59	f
Barcelona	11	52	s	Hong K	17	63	c	N York	3	37	s	Tenerife	23	73	s
Beirut	19	66	f	Innsbrck	3	37	r	Nairobi	23	73	f	Tokyo	10	50	s
Belgrade	8	46	f	Istanbul	13	55	f	Naples	16	61	f	Toronto	1	34	c
Berlin	4	39	c	Jeddah	27	81	t	Nice	15	59	s	Tunis	15	59	c
Bermuda	21	70	c	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Oslo	2	36	c	Valencia	15	59	s
Biarritz	10	50	f	Karachi	X			Paris	8	46	s	Vanc'ver	4	39	f
Borde'x	8	46	s	L Angels	16	61	s	Peking	2	36	s	Venice	7	45	c
Brussels	9	45	s	L Palmas	22	72	s	Perth	25	77	s	Vienna	6	43	r
Budapst	8	46	f	Le Touqt	9	48	f	Prague	3	37	r	Warsaw	4	39	r
Cairo	20	68	f	Lisbon	11	52	s	Reykjavik	1	34	c	Wash'ton	8	46	s
Cape Tn	22	72	c	Locarno	14	57	f	Rhodes	18	64	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Ch'church	17	63	X	Luxembg	4	39	c	Rio de J	32	90	f	Zurich	5	41	c
Chicago	-2	28	s	Luxor	19	66	f	Riyadh	23	73	s				
Cologne	7	45	c	Madrid	7	45	s	Rome	15	59	s				
Corfu	16	61	f	Majorca	14	57	f	S Fr'sco	9	48	s				

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday. X = not available



Changes to chart from noon: Intense high R expected to drift slowly south. Complex low M anticipated to turn north and deepen. Low L should fill as it moves east. Low K loses its identity

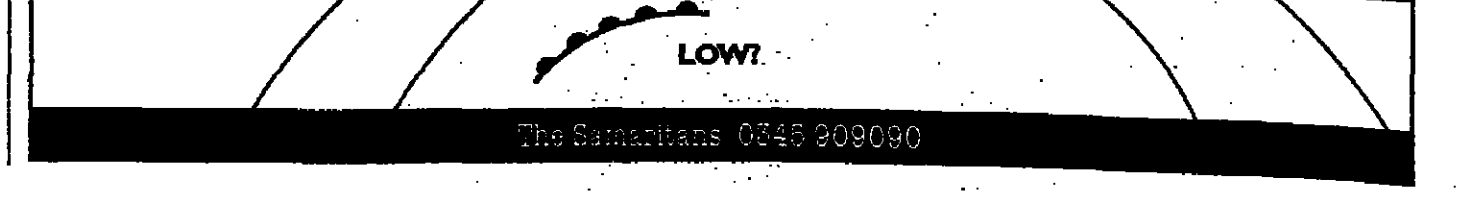


HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	01.51	7.4	14.06	7.4	Leith	02.22	6.0	14.48	5.9
Aberdeen	01.05	4.6	13.33	4.5	Liverpool	11.21	9.9	23.42	10.0
Avonmouth	07.19	13.8	19.42	14.0	Lowestoft	09.18	2.7	21.52	2.6
Belfast	11.08	3.7	23.30	3.7	Margate	11.59	4.9	-	-
Cardiff	07.05	12.8	19.28	12.9	Milford Haven	06.17	7.4	18.39	7.4
Devonport	05.51	5.7	18.13	5.7	Newquay	05.08	7.3	17.30	7.4
Dover	11.03	7.0	23.28	6.9	Oban	05.45	4.2	18.12	4.3
Dublin (N Wall)	11.46	4.4	-	-	Penzance	04.39	5.8	17.00	5.8
Falmouth	05.22	5.5	17.44	5.5	Portland	06.45	2.4	19.12	2.3
Greenock	00.24	3.7	12.42	3.7	Portsmouth	11.24	5.0	23.45	4.9
Harwich	11.57	4.3	-	-	Shoreham	11.13	6.5	23.37	6.4
Holyhead	10.23	5.9	22.43	6.0	Southampton	10.51	4.9	23.11	4.8
Hull (Albert D)	06.10	9.1	18.40	9.0	Swansea	06.24	10.1	18.45	10.2
Ilfracombe	06.02	9.7	18.26	9.8	Tees	03.30	5.8	15.57	5.7
King's Lynn	06.15	7.4	18.46	7.2	Walton-on-N	11.47	4.4	-	-

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Cardiff, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, 4C (39F); *highest rainfall:* Capel Curig, Gwynedd, 0.06in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 7.2hr


LOW?
The Samaritans 0345 909090

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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

ALL AT SEA
Problems as the Whitbread yachts set sail once again
PAGE 36

ONE-DAY WONDERS
England have the look of champions in Sharjah
PAGE 27

STONE COLD CERTAINTIES
Why Scotland eye Olympic curling success
PAGE 33

WIN £10,000
Play ITF FA Cup League
PAGE 37

PLUS
Snow reports service starts today
PAGE 26

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 15 1997

ENGLAND STRIKERS HAVE GOALS TO ACHIEVE AT OLD TRAFFORD

Shooting stars just waiting to shine

Rob Hughes compares Andy Cole and Stan Collymore, the £7-million strikers at present experiencing contrasting fortunes in front of goal

WHITHER the power and the fury of England's World Cup winter? Over the weekend, the balance of Ian Wright's mind again disturbed those hoping to trust him as a reliable alternative to Alan Shearer. The methods that Leeds United used against Chelsea should disturb anyone who espouses fair play. And, not for the first time, we look to Old Trafford tonight to redefine the standards of our national game.

Manchester United, irrefutably the best team in Britain, always have problems breaking down Aston Villa. This FA Carling Premiership fixture, goalless over the past three meetings, is marked by stubbornness, by unyielding resilience. Fine, but is there a predator of the night who can win this game — and use this stage to impress himself on Glenn Hoddle, the England coach?

The contest could come down to a duel between the £7-million striker that Alex Ferguson got, and the £7-million man he really wanted. It was almost three years ago to the day that the Manchester United manager saw Stan Collymore brush aside Gary Pallister and thrash home the first goal that United had conceded at Old Trafford that season.

Bolton held 28
United to win 29
Leeds survive 29
Forest fall 31
Lynne Truss 32

Ferguson wanted that power, that arrogance, that finishing, but when Frank Clark, then Nottingham Forest manager, failed to return his three telephone calls, Ferguson turned to Andy Cole. From Cole's first goal for United — against Villa at Old Trafford — until now it has taken three long and questioning years for Cole to regain the speed of foot and the sureness of eye to score consistently. He is doing it now, picking the pockets of defenders without them even realising that he was behind them.

What is more, Hoddle cannot fail to notice the partnership made in Manchester — Cole feeding off the wiles of Teddy Sheringham. But, when Collymore was in the doldrums and it was unfashionable to put faith in him, Hoddle had said that, on his day, Stan is the man whose sheer force, whose audacity in striking with either foot from any angle, almost any distance, showed a colossal talent waiting to be harnessed.

There are myriad frustrations with these modern millionaire goalscorers. With Wright, with Cole, with Collymore the exhilarating periods are frequently darkened by mood swings that exasperate their managers and paymasters. Ferguson's forbearance with Cole has been exceptional but, having spent the money, the manager's Calvinist philosophy pushes him to try to wring consistency out of his striker, improve the all-round ability so that it is not all left to impulse.

Similarly, Brian Little, the Villa manager, has already gone through the phases of tea and sympathy, of home calls and private chats, trying to invest his own knowledge of striking into Collymore, painstakingly searching for the keys to whatever motivates the big man.

The efforts become almost demeaning. The managers cajole, encourage, beg players who, these days, do not come to the sport determined to make the best of themselves or their talent. I imagine that Ferguson's patience with Cole will be hardened by news that Marcello Salas, the Chile striker that he covets, appears to be spoken for by Parmalat.

The Italian dairy company owns Parma Football Club and spreads influential sponsorships far and wide around Latin America — and word has it that Salas will move from River Plate to Parma, when the time is right, for £18 million.

So, Cole and Collymore, at a *mere* £7 million apiece, are bargains. They are both midlanders, both speak more or less the language of English football. They are 26, not yet at the prime of athletic life, and proven under the physical stresses of England's league, the extremes of climate.

But does anyone turn faster than Cole? His slender body seems to whiplash like a cobra when goals are on his mind. And does anyone, other than Ronaldo, the Brazilian, run through defenders with the juggernaut strength of Collymore?

Tonight represents the sort of challenge that turns him on. "Manchester United and Aston Villa are different planets," George Best observed at the weekend. Cole, by working doggedly to win over the team, and benefiting from the departure of Eric Cantona, who disdained to give him the ball, is pleasing Planet United.

Yet Collymore, who has the same agent as Cole, knows it could have been him. He knows that Villa Park, which he claims to be the ultimate place for him, is growing restless for his goals. Two for the season, against 15 for Cole, cannot simply be because the United man has the more creative team around him; cannot be just a side-effect of Collymore's sinusitis or a spin-off from his much-publicised love life.

Old Trafford awaits. United have scored *27* goals and conceded four in eight unbeaten home league games this season, but when Collymore visited there three years ago, he thunderously smashed a defence that had not conceded *one* goal in nine consecutive victories. It comes through the feet, but is in the mind.

Goal power: while Cole is happy to have rediscovered his scoring touch, Collymore remains a brooding presence

Since Newcastle United paid £1.75 million to acquire him from Bristol City in March 1993 the merits and goalscoring feats of ANDY COLE have been much debated. His 68 goals in 84 appearances for Newcastle tempted Alex Ferguson into a club record deal to bring him to Manchester United, where it has taken him time to find a consistent scoring touch.

Club (dates)	Transfer fee	Appearances	Goals
Arsenal (1989-91)	–	1	0
Fulham (1991-2)	Loan	15	4
Bristol City (1992-3)	£0.5m	49	25
Newcastle Utd (1993-5)	£1.75m	84	68
Manchester Utd (1995-7)	£7m	108	48
	TOTAL	257	145

A successful season with Southend United brought STAN COLLYMORE a £2 million move to Nottingham Forest in July 1993 and he continued his rich goalscoring form at the City Ground before moving to Liverpool for £8.5 million two years later. This season he has joined Aston Villa, where the goals have so far been in short supply.

Club (dates)	Transfer fee	Appearances	Goals
Crystal Palace (1991-2)	£0.1m	25	2
Southend Utd (1992-3)	£0.1m	33	18
Nottm Forest (1993-5)	£2m	78	45
Liverpool (1995-7)	£8.5m	81	35
Aston Villa (1997)	£7m	20	2
	TOTAL	237	102

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Tomba shows signs of return to form in giant slalom as weather finally relents

France salutes king of the mountains

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
IN VAL D'ISÈRE

Tomba, the veteran Italian who remains the most popular skier on the European circuit, displays his style on the slopes of Val d'Isère yesterday. Photograph: Armando Trovati

THERE is a perceptible buzz on the mountain when Alberto Tomba is in action. It was there soon after breakfast yesterday and it was there again in the early afternoon, when the Italian sought to win the first giant slalom of the Alpine skiing season here.

They really do shout *"Tomba, la Bomba"*, when he skis. It begins the moment he throws himself out of the starting gate like a rugby forward on the rampage. At the same moment, his image is flashed on the giant screen at the bottom of the run. Then it gets louder when he hoves into view in a gap in the trees, little more than a speck at first.

The French reserve the most vibrant ringing of cowbells, sounding of horns and blowing of whistles for their own heroes, men like the recently retired Luc Alphand, but Tomba is a hero to all. His is the name on everyone's lips as he strains to regain fitness and form for the Winter Olympics in Japan in February. Besides, he is truly a giant in skiing today, a man-size personality to go with a man-size skill and a man-size ego.

A race of any sort was something of a bonus for this French town after a European season that got off to a much-delayed start last week. On Thursday, it was rain that stopped the racing; on Friday there was too much snow. By Saturday, the fog had descended so that you could hardly see your hand in front of your face at the top of the mountain at the time that they wanted to start the men's downhill, though frustratingly, the fog lifted soon after.

Yesterday, though, could not have been better. It was a crystal clear, picture postcard sort of day, when the sky in the Alps was as blue as a mixture of the colours of Oxford and Cambridge. All around, the Alps shone as brightly as the silver in the mayoral parlour.

How well Tomba would ski so soon after falling at Park City was of concern to everyone, but for a small group of Britons there was as much interest in the performance of Alan Baxter. Baxter, a Scot who will be 24 on Boxing Day, is the first Briton to race in a giant slalom in many years and recently won a slalom race in the United States. He was only sixth-tenths of a second from earning a World Cup point at Park City.

Starting 65th in the morning run, Baxter was confident after skiing well in training. "I have been training well and skiing better than before," he said. "I'm hoping for a place in the top 30." So he was disappointed to come 58th, nearly four seconds behind Hermann Maier, of Austria, the leader at the halfway stage.

"There were a couple of gates I messed up on early on," Baxter said, breathing hard and looking glum at the same time. "I didn't set my edges properly — I was too late. But my real mistake was here." He pointed at a pole back towards the last few gates. "I seemed to set my skis sideways and that was that. It was over," he said.

Tomba, the sounds of support ricocheting around the slopes as he made his way stylishly and powerfully down the mountain, came ninth in the morning run, a good result from his starting position. Then, as the sun dipped behind a jagged mountain, a sense of anticipation began to build around the finish.

Maier was the first skiier in the morning and by setting the fastest time qualified to go last in the afternoon. Tomba was the 22nd to go on the second run and his aggregate time of 2min 31.25sec was good enough for second place, only for him to be pushed slowly down the order.

In the end he came eighth, a position that was liable to be changed to ninth if Maier's disqualification for removing one ski prematurely after crossing the finishing line is overturned by the council of the International Ski Federation. The Austrian appealed immediately against the disqualification. "That is not bad," Tomba said. "I am happy. There is a lot of room for improvement. I don't want to be in too good form at the moment. I want to be at my best at the Olympics."

Then he made a joke that his followers took as a sign of his good humour. The Italian word for ninth is *nono* and the Italian for grandfather is *nonno*. Tomba, who will be 31 on Friday, regards himself as an old man at this game. "Not bad for a grandfather, was it?" he joked as he retired to his room at a local hotel, where he would hold court like the king he is before returning home.

Results, page 39

BASKETBALL

Amaechi applies the killer touch

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

SUDDENLY, renewed talk of the Sheffield Sharks as Budweiser League title contenders is not fanciful, thanks to two high-scoring contributions from John Amaechi.

On Saturday, the 6ft 10in England international scored 28 points in his team's 87-84 win against Thames Valley Tigers, to follow his opening haul of 30 points against Worthing Bears last week.

Midway through the second quarter, though, the Tigers were leading 42-27. They were still 49-39 ahead at half-time. Then Amaechi came to life, giving the Tigers' Tony Holley (20 points) John McCord (18) and Jason Siemon (13), who had dealt with Mark Robinson (23), Todd Cauthorn (10) and Michael Payne, something to think about.

Two three-pointers and a three-point play 34 seconds from time, inflicted a second home league defeat of the season on the Tigers. In both matches, they had led by 15 points. "I don't have any pretensions," Amaechi said. "It's not as if I'm saying to them, 'You've got to give me the ball so I can score'. But they do that if I'm in the best position. We're a no-nonsense team and that suits me."

A millionaire after a year in the National Basketball Association with Cleveland Cavaliers and spells in Europe, Amaechi is donating his Sharks' salary to the Joe Forber Centre of Excellence in Manchester.

Elsewhere, Danny Lewis collected 40 points to keep London Towers at the top with a 96-85 win in overtime at Derby Storm. The Birmingham Bullets, without the injured Nigel Lloyd and Tony Dorsey, overcame Newcastle Eagles 70-64. Reggie Kirk and H. L. Coleman each scored 25 points.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Britain fail to reap dividend from their European travels

■ **ATHLETICS:** Great Britain endured a disappointing day at the European cross-country championships in Lisbon yesterday. The only medal success was provided by the junior women's team of Rebecca Wade (Bath), Amy Waterlow (Sale) and Louise Kelly (Barrow), who gained an unexpected bronze behind Germany and Yugoslavia. Dominic Bannister (Shaftesbury) was Britain's highest finisher in the senior men's race in seventeenth place, while Vikki McPherson (Glasgow) was eleventh in the senior women's event. Portugal retained the senior men's title, with Britain sixth, and France took the senior women's crown.

Second strike by Craig

■ **CYCLING: Nick Craig, the British mountain bike champion, produced his second surprise victory yesterday in only five races to win the third round of the National Trophy cyclo-cross competition at Leicester. His success added to his victory three weeks ago in the London open championship, when he beat a high-class international field. Yesterday's race on a boggy course was Craig's first of the trophy series. Together with Barrie Clarke, British cyclo-cross champion, and Stuart Blunt, he set the pace from halfway.**

Parnevik in the swing

■ **GOLF:** *Jesper Parnevik, of Sweden, won the Johnnie* Walker Super Tour in Taiwan yesterday. The Europe Ryder Cup player finished the six-day event with a 12-under-par 276, four strokes clear of Nick Faldo. Lee Westwood and Andrew Coltart dominate the Australasian order of merit as the tour nears its halfway stage. Westwood heads the list with £90,000 and Coltart, who finished joint-second in the New Zealand Open in Auckland yesterday, is in second place.

Lloyd falls short

■ **TENNIS: John Lloyd, of Great Britain, failed to win his first world over-35s tournament when he was beaten in the third-set tie-break by Jimmy Connors in the final of the Champions tournament in Sydney. Lloyd, the No 5 seed, won the first set 6-3, lost the second 6-2 and the third 10-7. Under the Champions tournament format, matches are the best-of-three sets, but the third is played as a tie-break with the winner being the first player to take ten points.**

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	50	80	good	powder	good	cloud	-6	13/12
(Great skiing on new snow, cold)								
St Anton	50	180	good	powder	good	cloud	-4	13/12
(Masses of new snow everywhere)								
FRANCE								
Chamonix	5	45	fair	varied	closed	fine	-3	13/12
(Only a handful of lifts open at the moment)								
Tignes	50	130	good	powder	good	sun	-13	12/12
(Much more terrain now open: 40/100 lifts running)								
Val d'Isère	50	70	good	powder	art	sun	-7	12/12
(Link with Tignes open, good skiing on open runs)								
Val Thorens	45	90	good	powder	good	sun	-10	13/12
(Good skiing on open pistes powdery snow)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	10	130	good	varied	art	fine	-5	3/12
(Good skiing on upper slopes man-made snow low down)								
SWITZERLAND								
Crans M	5	40	fair	powder	closed	cloud	-2	14/12
(12/41 lifts open, good above 2,000m)								
Klosters	30	100	good	powder	fair	cloud	-5	13/12
(Excellent skiing on new snow 25/53 lifts open)								
Murren	30	50	fair	powder	fair	cloud	-5	13/12
(More terrain now open, 9/12 lifts running)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artifical

SNOOKER: PARROTT BROUGHT DOWN TO EARTH AFTER EUPHORIA OF BEATING THE WORLD CHAMPION

Higgins ready to pocket second German victory

Higgins: lacked fluency

FROM PHIL YATES
IN BINGEN

JOHN HIGGINS, winner of the inaugural German Open in 1995, was within four frames of capturing the title for the second time in three years when he established a 5-3 lead over John Parrott in the final here yesterday.

Higgins, who defeated Ronnie O'Sullivan, the defending champion, 6-4 in the semi-finals on Saturday, displayed little fluency but with Parrott also finding rhythm elusive, the Scot was able to get the better of a generally scrappy opening session.

After a first frame, won by Higgins, play was suspended for 15 minutes while an official rebrushed the table and applied a damp cloth to the playing surface to prevent the cue-ball picking up fibres from the baize.

With the intermission over, Parrott, attempting to add Germany to the list of eight nations in which he has already won a tournament, enjoyed his most productive spell of the afternoon. Runs of 86 and 44 earned a 2-1 lead.

By winning a disjointed fourth frame, Higgins levelled at 2-2. Including his highest break of the session, a modest 52, he also won the fifth and moved 4-2 ahead by controlling a tactically-orientated sixth.

Considering the paucity of break-building opportunities afforded Parrott over the course of the previous hour, the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion deserved every credit for a run of 102 in the seventh frame, during which he potted a succession of low-value colours and was required to manoeuvre the cue-ball all round the table.

Parrott, who has failed to lift a trophy since the European Open of March 1996, also held a 44-4 advantage in the eighth but Higgins fought back into contention before two independent slices of good fortune aided his cause.

He fluked the penultimate red, fluked the last red in escaping a snooker — as he had done in the fifth frame — and eventually, potted blue, pink and black conventionally to become favourite for the £50,000 first prize.

It was a disappointing outcome to the session for Parrott, who had cued with such authority when recovering from a 4-3 deficit to beat Ken Doherty, the world champion, 6-4 in the other semi-final.

In the closing three frames of that match, Parrott, who has recently received technical assistance from Terry Griffiths, outscored Doherty 274-10 after breaks of 85, 82 and 68.

"Sometimes, you forget the basics and it helps to speak to people who know what they are talking about," Parrott said of Griffiths, the head of coaching for the game's governing body, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association. "Terry has got a wealth of experience and he explains things well."

FINAL: J Higgins (Scot) leads J Parrott (Eng), 5-3. Frame scores (Higgins first): 83-28, 1-82, 14-67, 69-21, 72-44, 57-27, 0-102, 59-48.

HOCKEY

Sharpe shoots Cannock to exciting victory

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

AT THE halfway stage of the National League, Cannock are six points clear at the top of the premier division, but their 3-2 victory at home yesterday over Old Loughtonians was not all plain sailing. Martin Gilbody, the Cannock manager, described the match as "close, exciting and quite physical".

Two late goals by Sharpe sealed victory for Cannock, who fell behind in the fourteenth minute when Rolfe put Old Loughtonians ahead. Organ levelled the score from a short corner four minutes later, but ten minutes into the second half Lee gave the visitors a 2-1 advantage.

Canterbury's 6-3 home win against East Grinstead was marked by Hacker's hat-trick, achieved from two penalty strokes and a short corner. Mathews, from two short corners, and Kerly added to the score. Gibson, Welsh and Head replied for East Grinstead.

Southgate, with a match in hand, moved into third position on goal difference behind Canterbury and put recent disappointments behind them with a 4-3 home win against Beeston, the team that knocked them out of the EHA Cup.

However, from the comfort of a 4-0 lead Southgate slumped into a desperate struggle for survival as Beeston hit back strongly with a snap goal by Longden, a second half substitute, and two goals by Keegan from short corners.

At the start, everything went well for Southgate. Goals by Waugh, Simons and Attala from a penalty stroke put them 3-0 ahead by half-time and Sully added the fourth goal from a short corner seven minutes into the second half.

Reading, the title-holders, moved up to fourth place with a 7-3 victory at home over Doncaster after leading 4-1 at half-time. Ashdown and Slay scored two goals each and further goals were added by Pearn, Todd and Wyatt. Stoves, Moffett and Wood responded for Doncaster.

Eastcote enjoy life at the top

BY CATHY HARRIS

THESE are the best of times for Eastcote. Promoted to the Premier League in the ESL South League this season, a 3-2 win at Bournemouth extended their remarkable run and they go into the Christmas break two points clear at the top from High Wycombe.

The league is reputed to be the biggest in the world and Paul Loudon, the coach of Eastcote, who doubles as manager, admits the success has probably taken opponents by surprise. "I'm delighted with our progress and the way we've played, but it's a big jump and we're a bit tactically naive and could learn a few more skills," he said.

Penalty corner goals by their leading marksman, Danny Geach, and John Curtis gave Eastcote a 2-1 cushion at half-time. Captain Adrian Carter made it 3-1 with a scrambled corner goal after the interval, but Bournemouth capitalised on a defensive blunder to pull one back.

With five points separating the top five teams, Winchester, the only team to have beaten Eastcote this year, had their hopes of closing the gap on the leaders dashed when their game against Old Whitgiftians was postponed because an umpire failed to turn up. Winchester captain and top goalscorer, Richard Jones, said that despite being forced to use four goalkeepers, he was happy going into Christmas lying fifth, and with a game in hand.

In the Hampshire-Surrey League, Epsom's crushing 7-0 victory over Portsmouth moved them within three points of Old Cranleighans, who suffered their first defeat — 4-3 at Andover. Two former Welsh internationals, David Knapp and Jon Rees, and England's Don Williams, who played for Great Britain in the 1992 Olympic Games, help make the Surrey club promotion favourites.

BOXING

Rhodes puts trust in his youth

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE World Boxing Organisation middleweight championship proved a step too far for 21-year-old Ryan Rhodes in Sheffield.

His dreams of becoming the youngest postwar British world champion were shattered by Otis Grant, of Canada, whose experienced display of controlled, efficient boxing earned him a unanimous points decision.

"I'll be back," Rhodes said. "I will be world champion — I'm only 21. I thought I boxed well and got my second wind around the sixth or seventh and it could have gone either way."

It was undoubtedly Rhodes's inexperience when compared with the 31-year-old Grant that told in the end.

Henry Akinwande made a successful return to the ring in Florida with an easy 12-round victory over Orlin Norris, of the United States, in a non-title heavyweight bout.

The 6ft 7in Akinwande, who was disqualified for excessive holding and for refusing to fight in his last bout, when he challenged Lennox Lewis for the World Boxing Council heavyweight title in July, made the most of his height and reach advantage.

The Florida-based Briton was awarded the fight by all three judges, despite a point deducted for holding.

"I didn't hold him — he kept diving in under my arms and I tried to push him off." Akinwande said.

SQUASH

England pairing cash in for gold

FROM COLIN McQUILLAN IN HONG KONG

ENGLAND'S gold-medal haul from world championships increased by one here yesterday, when Chris Walker and Mark Cairns defeated the Australia pairing of Dan Jensen and Craig Rowland 15-11, 15-13 in the final of the Pak Fah Yeow world doubles.

Walker also took a silver medal with Cassandra Jackman from the mixed doubles final, which they lost 15-10, 15-11 in 27 minutes to Jensen and Liz Irving, of Australia, while Jackman took the women's silver medal with Sue Wright after losing 15-4, 15-12 to Leilani Joyce and Philippa Beams, of New Zealand.

Walker also captained England to a second men's World Team Squash gold medal in Kuala Lumpur last month, and both the men's and women's world junior titles are held by England.

This tournament was the first in a redesigned doubles format that the World Squash Federation expects to sweep through the game. Using new technology from the German ASB company, the Hong Kong Football Club installed four 21ft singles courts with sliding side walls that, by pressing a button, converted to three 25ft-wide doubles courts. Sponsorship from the Hong Kong Jockey Club provided the world's first 25ft-wide demountable Perspex showcourt.

The final rounds on the show court, where the ball holds up more in the shot, entranced spectators — something of a breakthrough for a game more addictive for players.

Walker, particularly, seems destined to become a star of the new game, which will be featured at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur next September. His inventive left-hand play and athletic exuberance translated perfectly to the left-hand wall of the doubles court and, in Cairns, he found the perfect steady and phlegmatic foil.

Against an obdurate Pakistan pairing of Zubair Jahan and Amjad Khan in the semi-finals on Saturday, they played heavily on the more adept Amjad in the left-hand court until Zubair's concentration wandered, then fired in a demanding little shot that the senior opponent obligingly hit off-target.

Against the very good Australia pair yesterday, they attacked Rowland, having seen Jensen control the court to win the mixed doubles final with Irving.

Cairns, who has been dubbed by the Hong Kong press "Mark 6" after his HK$52,000 (about £7,500) win on the Mark 6 lottery here in partnership with Wright last week, not surprisingly told the crowd: "I'll come back here anytime. It gets better with every visit. Now I am a rich world champion, I wonder what you are planning for me next time."

هكذا من الأهل

هكذا من الإصل

September return to Sharjah an ill-conceived venture

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, says England's players have enough on their plates without another one-day tournament

It may seem churlish to question any aspect of the latest initiative by the International Cricket Council (ICC), a worthily perceived event designed exclusively to raise money for *its* development projects. In addressing one festering issue so positively, however, the ICC has not only ignored but amplified the warning sirens of *another*.

A week ago, in Calcutta, the executive board of the ICC resolved that all nine Test-playing countries should gather in Sharjah in late September next year for a limited-overs tournament. It will be sponsored and played on a brief, knockout basis, the teams seeded eighth and ninth playing off before the quarter-finals.

The ICC, conscious of preserving the stature of the only one-day event of true significance, is downplaying any talk of it as a mini-World Cup, but the ritual yawns over one more gratuitous commercial bunfight are in this instance stifled by the concept of all revenue going directly into development.

It is expected that several million pounds will be distributed to further the growth of the game in areas that are uninitiated or underfunded. The players will still receive fees — though some, dare it be thought, might donate them to the cause — and my concerns on their behalf are *not financial but physical and mental*.

Nobody can doubt the validity of this event. It is the type of exercise, compact and effective, that cricket *should* arguably have staged years ago to aid the aims of globalisation so important to a sport wishing to compete in the modern marketplace. It will occupy the players concerned for no more than a fortnight, plus perhaps a week of preparation, and, viewed in isolation, can only be applauded.

I wonder, however, whether some of the England players at present in Sharjah, and now contemplating a return there nine *months hence, feel so joyful* about it. England are already embarking on the crazily cluttered cycle that, after it was last limpingly completed, we were assured would never arise again. Four years on, here it is with knobs on.

On January 3, they embark on a 14-week tour of the West Indies. Three days after their return, the domestic season begins, containing six Tests, six one-day internationals and the undiminished demands of the county season. A four-month trip to Australia, beginning in late October, was preceded by the one opportunity for a few weeks of rest. That has now been swallowed up by the Sharjah *spectacular*. England's senior cricketers will leave homes and families on January 2 and not see much of either for the next 13 months. This, of course, is what they are tolerably well paid to do, so why should they complain? Well, perhaps it is time someone complained on their behalf.

Earlier this year, a conference of the Test captains expressed unanimous concern over the volume of cricket being scheduled. They asked that the ICC, through its constituent boards, should consider imposing a maximum commitment each calendar year and suggested 12 Tests and 30 one-day games, still *a heavy workload even for those* nations where domestic cricket scarcely features.

This was subsequently relayed to each country for discussion but the matter received no more than a cursory mention at the Calcutta meeting last week. "No ultimatums are being delivered," David Richards, the chief executive, said. "The *captains did feel* that players must sometimes have a couple of months off rather than just a couple of weeks but this a matter for further discussion."

Richards is delighted that the debate over a world Test-match championship — due for resolution next summer — has focused attention on long-term tour programming and the commercial motivation behind so much of it. He insisted, however, that central planning of international fixtures is *not an option*. "*It will never be* feasible as we must respect the sovereign right of individual countries."

This is a shame, for what could be better and more unifying than the creation of a balanced Test-match schedule in which no country is asked to play too much and the smaller, aspiring nations, such as Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, are given equitable shares?

Another proposal to emerge from the Calcutta meeting, the brainchild of the ICC president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, was the creation of a week in which the game would be busily promoted, worldwide.

It would be called *Cricket Week* and it could be worthwhile, if only it was possible to identify a single week in which everyone was willing or able to raise their heads from other commitments.

Before it is too late, which means pretty soon now, cricket must come to terms with its priority, quality or quantity. If greed dictates that itineraries swell with no central restraint, there will be few fit cricketers left to play and few motivated, discerning spectators to watch.

Second successive Champions Trophy victory confirms touring team's impressive progress

England in debt to Ealham's talents

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SHARJAH

EVERY day and in every way, England's cricketers must be thinking, we are getting better and better. Victory against West Indies on Saturday gave them two wins out of two in *the Champions Trophy and* virtually assured them of a place in the final on Friday, even if they lose to Pakistan today.

Against India on Thursday the winning margin was tight, seven runs. West Indies, who lost two men to the first three balls of the day, bowled by Dougie Brown, were pushed over more comfortably. There were 4.1 overs to spare and four wickets in hand when Brown — "the brawny Scot", according to one local report — ended the match with a bat in his hands.

The mood among the players is so relaxed and pleasingly confident that when Adam Hollioake, the captain, was called upon afterwards to answer some questions for the television audience, he managed to get in two words, "cosmopolitan" and "rhinoceros", selected by his teammates as a bit of a dare. Mark Ealham, he said, was "charging in like a rhinoceros". Michael Holding, the interviewer, looked a bit puzzled, as well he might.

There were plenty of good things to come out of the game, not least Brown's dismissal of Wallace, first ball, *and Lara, the bowler's new captain* at Warwickshire, who was leg-before two balls later. From nought for two, West Indies did reasonably well to make as many as *197* for seven, and the fact that Carl Hooper, who faced the fourth ball of the innings, completed his hundred off the last ball of their 50 overs, reveals how niggardly England's bowling was.

In no time at all, and with no recent cricket behind them, they have knitted together as a happy bunch. The three players yet to figure, Peter Martin, Ashley Giles and Ben Hollioake, are not walking round with long faces. Hollioake may get a game today, ahead of Ally Brown, and Giles could *displace Robert Croft, but* Martin, the most affable of fellows, could go home next weekend without bowling a ball in anger.

The other good things on Saturday were the batting of Graham Thorpe, whose half-century steadied the ship when waters got a little choppy, and the all-round reliability of the rhinoceros, whose performance is becoming a barometer of the team's well-being. Ealham took one for 28 with his intelligent medium-pacers, varying his pace in that familiar way, and then made 28 *not* out to see England *home after their fifth* wicket fell with 75 still needed.

Ealham does not consider himself to be only a one-day specialist, though he knows his performances in this kind of cricket initially brought him to people's attention. "Every time I play for England it is very enjoyable," he said. "I always felt that my best chance of playing international cricket was in the one-day game. It got me on the scene and gave me a launching pad, if you like.

"Since then I've been fortunate enough to play at Test level and I must admit it's disappointing to have been left out at times. I missed the last two Tests last summer and was left out of the touring party [to West Indies], but there are *plenty of goals left to* achieve."

On the slow Sharjah pitches, where the white ball loses its shine and hardness fairly quickly, Ealham's *variation of* pace and strictness of line have proved vital. Hollioake has also excelled. The slower ball is an essential part of his armoury, too, and he has plenty of them. In his hands they are as various as wild flowers on Highland moors.

In their remaining game, England could do with Graeme Hick finding some form, and Hollioake will not feel entirely happy until he is middling the ball as he can. Otherwise, everything in the garden is rosy. There is a distinct chance that England, who arrived here to no great *fanfare, could end up winning* the tournament.

If they do, it will strengthen David Graveney's hand. The chairman of selectors, who is here *as tour manager, wants* to name the one-day side that concludes the tour of the West Indies with five internationals as soon as possible. A good *show here should enable him* to do so.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Brown, the England fast bowler, celebrates after dismissing Wallace with the first ball of the match against West Indies

SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

West Indies won toss

WEST INDIES

P A Wallace b D R Brown (1 ball)	0
S C Williams c Thorpe b Headley (37 balls, 3 fours)	22
B C Lara lbw b D R Brown (2 balls)	*0*
C L Hooper not out (135 balls, 6 fours)	100
S Chanderpaul lbw b Ealham (39 balls, 1 four)	16
P V Simmons c Croft b Hollioake (46 balls, 1 four)	29
†D Williams run out (Stewart) (9 balls)	4
R N Lewis b Fleming (22 balls, 1 four)	13
F A Rose not out (11 balls, 2 fours)	11
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	197

M V Dillon and *C A Walsh did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (S C Williams 0), 2-0 (S C Williams 0), 3-50 (Hooper 26), 4-77 (Hooper 37), 5-143 (Hooper 74), 6-151 (Hooper 78), 7-181 (Hooper 95).

BOWLING (one spell each): *D R Brown* 7-1-28-2 (4 fours), Headley 7-1-24-1 (nb 2; 3 fours); Ealham 10-1-28-1 (1 four); Croft 10-0-40-0 (1 four), Hollioake 8-0-41-1 (2 fours); Fleming 8-1-36-1 (3 fours)

Score after 15 overs: 57-3.

ENGLAND

A D Brown c Lewis b Walsh (18 balls, 1 four)	10
†A J Stewart c Walsh b Rose (25 balls, 3 fours)	23
N V Knight c D Williams b Dillon (30 balls)	10
G A Hick run out (Chanderpaul) (54 balls, 2 fours)	28
G P Thorpe c D Williams b Hooper (75 balls, 2 fours)	57
*A J Hollioake c Chanderpaul b Dillon (15 balls)	9
M A Ealham not out (49 balls, 3 fours)	28
D R Brown not out (18 balls, 1 four)	16
Extras (lb 7, w 4, nb 6)	17
Total (6 wkts, 45.5 overs)	198

M V Fleming, R D B Croft and D W Headley did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21 (Stewart 7), 2-45 (Knight 8), 3-53 (Hick 3), 4-100 (Thorpe 16), 5-123 (Thorpe 30), 6-173 (Ealham 21)

BOWLING: Walsh 9.5-1-51-1 (nb 5, w 1; 6 fours; 6-1-28-1, 3-0-13-0, 0.5-0-10-0); Rose 10-0-38-1 (nb 1; 2 fours; 8-0-28-1, 2-0-10-0); Dillon 10-0-38-2 (w 2; 2 fours, 5-0-19-1, 3-0-12-1, 2-0-7-0); Lewis 6-0-34-0 (nb 3, w 1; 1 four; 5-0-27-0, 1-0-7-0); Simmons 2-0-8-0 (one spell); *Hooper 8-1-22-1* (1 four; one spell)

Score after 15 overs: 55-3

England won by four wickets.

Match award: C.L.Hooper

Umpires: B C Cooray (Sri Lanka) and K *T Francis (Sri Lanka). Third umpire:* C J Mitchley (South Africa). Referee: P J P Burge (Australia).

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall / CricInfo*

	P	W	L	Pts
England	2	2	0	4
West Indies	2	1	1	2
Pakistan	2	1	1	2
India	2	0	2	0

Elegant Saeed dashes final hope for India

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON

PAKISTAN kept alive their chances of qualifying for the final of the Champions Trophy when they beat India by four wickets yesterday. A fine 104 by Saeed Anwar, their elegant left-handed opener, gave them the win they needed to stay in the competition. But India, who have lost both matches so far, cannot qualify even if they beat West Indies tomorrow.

To reach the final Pakistan *must beat England today. It is* a tall order because England, who have played disciplined cricket this week, are in good heart and have enjoyed the benefit of a day off between their matches. Pakistan, of course, are the great unpredictables and their need for a win will give an edge to the game.

Anwar, who made the highest score in one-day internationals, 194, earlier this year, sent the Pakistan element in a capacity crowd into a sustained spasm of delight as he began expansively and then shored up the innings. Together with Moin Khan, the wicketkeeper who plays mainly for his batting, he added 62 for the sixth wicket, and when he went they were only 14 runs *short*.

India's batting let them down for the second time. Against England they could not lend Tendulkar the necessary support and yesterday, when the captain failed, they could score only 96 runs from the last 20 overs.

Ganguly and Sidhu were threatening to take the game away from Pakistan when three wickets went down for four runs. To heighten their distress it was the corpulent Inzamam, who lumbers around the field like a polar bear and seems, if anything, to be putting on the pounds, whose catching and throwing did for them.

Sidhu was run out when Inzamam returned the ball to Moin, whose glovework is not always clean. It wasn't on this occasion and even after five minutes of television replays it was difficult to say with conviction that he had removed the bails before the batsman had made his ground. Peter Burge, the third umpire, decided that he had.

After Singh had propelled his first ball foolishly to square leg, where Moin trotted round to get his mitts underneath it, Tendulkar lasted only four balls. He gave his wicket away, pushing feebly to short mid-wicket where Inzamam held a diving catch and, after a landing that registered at least three points on the Richter Scale, he wandered off hurt.

It was left to Ganguly, with 90 hard-hit runs, to give India a decent score, though they should really have made 30 more. But when Pakistan lost their fourth wicket at 102, and even when Inzamam was out with 96 needed, India were back in the game. Anwar, going to his seventh hundred in Sharjah, closed the door emphatically and Moin, whose unbeaten 49 came from 50 balls, hit the winning runs with 17 balls to spare. The fevered atmosphere, which led to a five minute delay early in the Pakistan innings as water bottles were cleared from the outfield, had become a lot cooler by then.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

†S S Karim run out	18
S C Ganguly b Wasim	90
N S Sidhu run out	54
R R Singh c Moin b Azhar	0
*S R Tendulkar c Inzamam b Manzoor	3
M Azharuddin c Wasim b Saqlain	39
A D Jadeja b Saqlain	6
A Kumble not out	11
Extras (lb 11, w 4, nb 3)	18
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	239

R K Chauhan, J Srinath and A Kuruvilla did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-143, 3-143, 4-147, 5-200, 6-224, 7-239

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 10-1-34-1; Aqib Javed 10-0-49-0. Azhar Mahmood 10-0-40-1, Saqlain Mushtaq 10-0-55-2; Manzoor Akhtar 10-0-50-1.

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Karim b Srinath	104
Shahid Afridi c and b Chauhan	19
Ijaz Ahmed lbw b Kumble	16
Akhtar Sarfraz c Azharuddin b Chauhan	7
Manzoor Akhtar lbw b Kumble	5
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Karim b Ganguly	*19*
†Moin Khan not out	49
*Wasim Akram not out	9
Extras (lb 8, w 6, nb 1)	15
Total (6 wkts, 47.2 overs)	243

Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq and Aqib Javed did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-48, 2-79, 3-93, 4-102, 5-144, 6-226

BOWLING. Srinath 10-0-43-1, Kuruvilla 8-1-43-0; Chauhan 9.2-0-47-2; Kumble 10-1-44-2, Ganguly 7-0-39-1, Singh 3-0-19-0.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and C J Mitchley (South Africa)

Gough's patience brings its reward

FROM JOHN STERN IN CAPE TOWN

MICHAEL GOUGH, 17, a right-handed batsman from Durham, is one of the younger, quieter and more unassuming *members of the England under-19 tour party, not* prone to ostentation on or off the field.

Yesterday, he batted for six minutes more than four hours and faced 199 balls in making 32 not out. *Without his powers* of concentration, patience and sound technique, England would probably not have saved the first Test against South Africa. With them, however, they survived — just — after being bowled out for 256 in their second innings, following on 20 minutes before stumps. South Africa, after the ten minutes for the change of innings, had only two overs in which to score 39 runs to win and they fell 20 short of their target.

As has been their wont on this tour so far, and in this match particularly, England gave wickets away at the most inopportune moments after resuming on 96 without loss. Stephen Peters, the Essex opening batsman, had played almost faultlessly in reaching 92 by lunch, but two balls into the afternoon session he was caught at the wicket and England were back in trouble at 176 for four. With Peters gone, the flow of runs dried up to *the point* where Gough and Giles Haywood had added nine in 15 overs for the fifth wicket before the latter was caught behind for six. Two overs later, the 89th of *the innings, Gough received his one life* when he offered a regulation catch to second slip where Grant Elliott, who made 201 not out in his side's innings, put it down.

At tea, England had four wickets intact and led by six runs. The England tail, as if following their instructions to the letter, batted for about half an hour each apart from Richard Logan, the No 11, who lasted only two balls. By that stage, though, the mathematics were in the touring team's favour — 39 to win from two overs was too much to ask.

Scoreboard, page 39

Openers put Denmark on back foot

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN HYDERABAD

TWO innings of contrasting style by the openers, Charlotte Edwards and Helen Plimmer, put England on the way to their second score of more than 300 in three *days and a convincing win over Denmark* in their women's World Cup match in Hyderabad yesterday. England scored 301 for four off their 50 overs and restricted Denmark to 107 for seven.

A huge England total at the Gymkhana ground was on the cards once Edwards, three days short of her eighteenth birthday, had pulled the first two balls of the innings for four. She repeated the dose in the second over and took full advantage of the field restrictions. By the time she was out in the thirteenth over, she had made 72, with 13 fours, off only 52 balls, in an opening stand of 86.

Plimmer, more of an accumulator than a strokemaker, was the ideal foil for Edwards and then Jan Brittin. Plimmer *made* a sluggish start, while Brittin, who scored 138 as England compiled 376 against Pakistan last Friday, chipped in with 51. Sue Metcalfe was stumped off a ball by Susanne Nielsen that bounced *twice before it reached her, but Plimmer* ploughed on. When she was out, caught behind off Nielsen for 87, she had faced 113 balls and batted for all but six overs of the innings, earning the player-of-the-match award. "As long as you concentrate on the role you are trying to play and not get too overawed by it, it works," Plimmer said. "Everybody is still playing for places against the bigger teams."

Jane Cassar (43 not out) and Karen Smithies (29 not out) scored quick runs at the end of the innings.

Denmark had discarded any hopes of victory long before they batted and some tight, if not penetrative, bowling ensured an England victory by 194 runs — almost as emphatic as their 231-run win over *Pakistan. However, both results were put* into perspective by Australia's nine-wicket win over Pakistan, also in Hyderabad. Pakistan were dismissed for 27.

England's next match is against Ireland in Pune tomorrow.

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Old failings continue to hurt New Barnsley

BARNSLEY 2
NEWCASTLE UNITED 2

By Richard Hobson

THERE is an unfortunate paradox about Barnsley's season. Danny Wilson, the manager, believes that his side is improving by the week. Neil Redfearn, the captain, presents an articulate case in agreement. With each game that passes, however, the task of maintaining FA Carling Premiership status becomes harder.

"We are much, much better than at the start of the season," Wilson said on Saturday. "All round, I think we have wised up. We are not in awe of the opposition any more. Over the last month or so I have been really encouraged by our performances, even though we have not been getting the results."

To listen to the chorus of optimistic voices at Oakwell it was hard to accept that Barnsley had actually lost ground in their quest to avoid relegation. They are five points adrift of the side in seventeenth position, two points worse off than before the weekend. There is an easy conclusion: if this is progress, then thank goodness Barnsley are not going backwards.

Easy, but superficial. Imagine how Wilson's side might have responded to being 2-1 down to Newcastle United in September, especially after surrendering the lead. "We would have lost by three or four goals," Redfearn said. "We realise now that we have to scrap for every point. We cannot afford to reach the stage where we need to put a championship run together to stay up."

Barnsley are certainly more resilient. It is a compliment to their growing strength that Wilson felt compelled to deny that his side has become over-physical. "We just make sure we do not give any quarter," he said. Redfearn epitomised New Barnsley as he matched Batty tackle for tackle.

Gillespie acclaims his first goal

The next step is to avoid the lapses in concentration — the silly individual mistakes — that went unpunished in the Nationwide League last season.

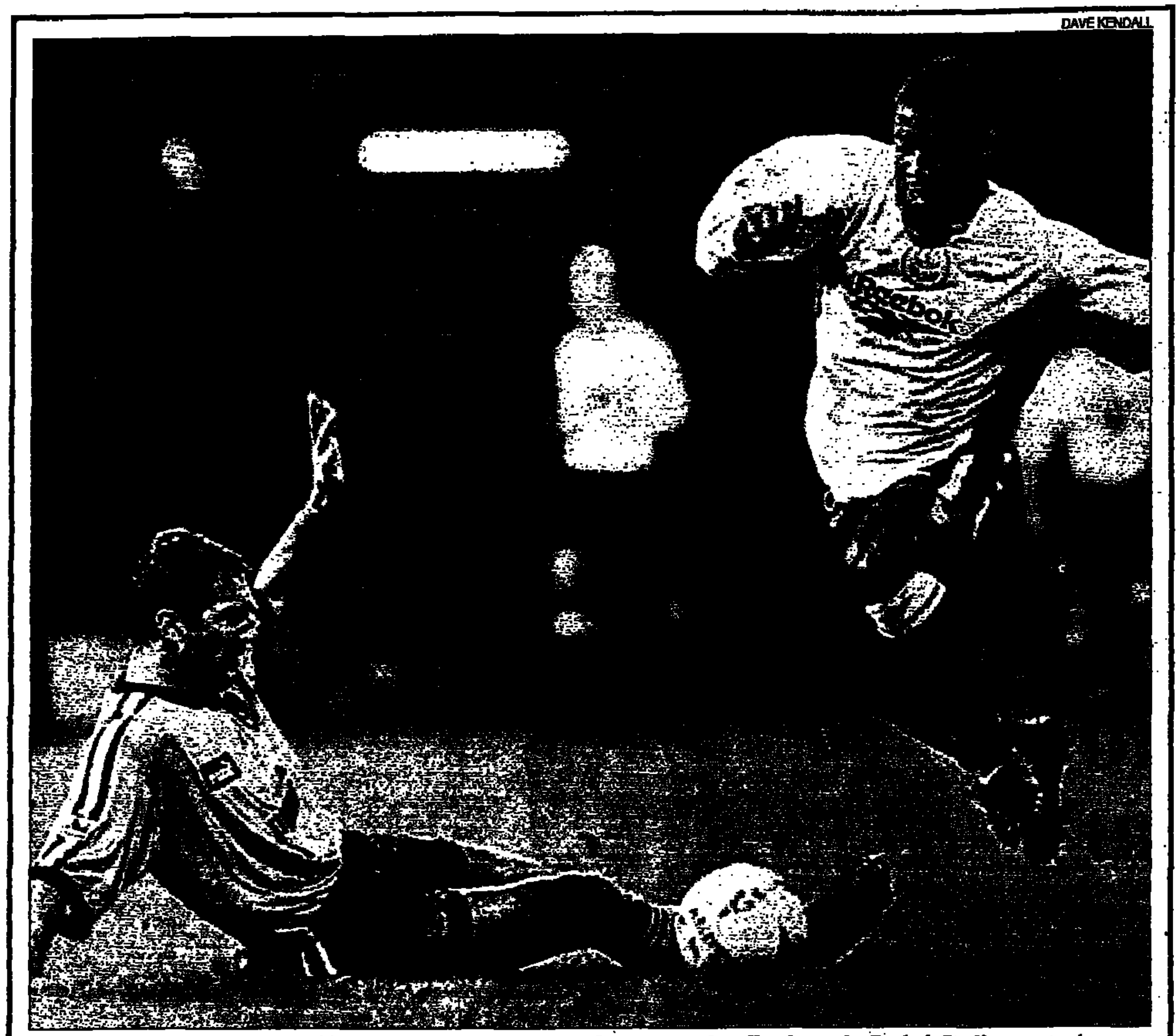
Tinkler, after 43 minutes, was dispossessed far too easily by Asprilla and, when the Colombian passed to Gillespie, Appleby allowed the winger to cut inside and place a left-foot shot beyond Leese. Barnsley could harbour just one complaint: that Asprilla remained on the field after twice swinging an arm at Appleby four minutes earlier. The offence was either missed or ignored by Paul Alcock, the referee.

Three minutes into the second half, Gillespie scored a second when he lobbed Leese, inexplicably off his line. Who now would have predicted an equaliser, for Barnsley had enjoyed much their best spell in the first half. They went ahead through a curling shot by Redfearn after eight minutes and nearly extended the lead when Tinkler's header from Appleby's free kick forced Hislop into an agile save.

The visitors, marshalled by Pearce, gradually settled. Barnes became a fourth midfield player and Tomasson replaced Asprilla, still some way short of full match fitness. Gillespie blazed over when a hat-trick beckoned before Tomasson shot wide having beaten two defenders. "We did not look in any great danger," Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, said.

Instead, the final goal went to Barnsley, and to Hendrie, a substitute, whose six previous clubs include Newcastle. Collecting the ball on the right touchline in the 75th minute, he moved infield unchallenged, as had Gillespie earlier, and shot gloriously past the despairing Hislop. It was a strike to send supporters home convinced that better times await.

BARNSLEY (3-5-2): L Leese — A Moses, M Appleby (sub: M Bullock, 65min), A Krizan — N Eaden, J Bosancic (sub: D Sheridan, 52), N Redfearn, E Tinkler, D Barnard — A Ward, A Liddell (sub: J Hendrie, 56)
NEWCASTLE UNITED (5-3-2): S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, S Pearce, A Pistone — K Gillespie, D Batty, R Lee — F Asprilla (sub: J D Tomasson, 65), J Barnes
Referee: P Alcock.



DAVE KENDALL

Blake, right, hurdles this tackle from Rowett as Bolton Wanderers go on the offensive at the Reebok Stadium yesterday

Bolton stage memorable spectacle

BOLTON WANDERERS 3
DERBY COUNTY 3

By Matt Dickinson

THE splendid Reebok Stadium provides excellent views, commendable facilities and the warmest of welcomes — everything, in fact, Bolton Wanderers supporters had been complaining, except entertainment. However, all that changed yesterday, spectacularly so, when these two sides shared six goals in 28 mad second-half minutes.

Where they came from, no one was quite sure. Before the kick-off, Bolton had been the picture of parsimony, scoring just five times in eight games in their plush new ground. Derby County appeared content, meanwhile, simply to halt the woeful away sequence that had seen their defence beaten 12 times in their past three trips away from their own new ground, Pride Park.

When Alan Thompson put Bolton ahead from the penalty spot four minutes after the restart, however, the game was lifted to a level that nobody had dared hope for on a freezing Lancashire afternoon. Derby, until then barely capable of shooting never mind doing it with any great intent, suddenly burst into life and surged into a 3-1 lead that they can never have expected and certainly did not deserve.

Even Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said: "It was ridiculous. We were 3-1 up, but instead of just hanging on to that, we were going out for four or five. There were senior players out there, but they were committing suicide." He should have been grateful, though, simply to get out of the game with a point, because even that looked well beyond his players when they fell behind in the 49th minute. Stimac tripped Frandsen and Thompson struck home the penalty.

Cue the most unlikely comeback of the FA Carling Premiership season so far, as first Stefano Eranio combined with Francesco Baiano, his compatriot, before striding unhindered into the penalty area and lifting the ball past Ward for a 54th-minute equaliser.

Eleven minutes later, Derby were ahead, again thanks to their Italian contingent. Sturridge outpaced Phillips along the right flank and, when Ward dived to block his cross, he succeeded only in palming the ball to Baiano, who blasted in the rebound.

When Derby increased their lead to 3-1 in the 69th minute, Baiano adding his second after completing a simple one-two with Sturridge, it proved too much for one Wanderers fan, who rose from his seat, produced a theatrical two-fingered salute and strode from the ground muttering his disgust.

Less than ten minutes later, he was scuttling back to his seat to hoots of derision from his colleagues, the roars of excitement as Bolton had brought the game back to 3-3 luring him back from the car park.

He had missed two fine goals. The first from Blake after 72 minutes was a towering header, the centre forward, who too often appears content to squander his undoubted talents, rising above Chris Powell to deliver a spectacular finish. The next was even better. Frandsen's 50-yard sprint at a retreating Derby defence seemed to be heading up a blind alley as he neared the byline, but the midfield player knew exactly what he was doing, cleverly backheeling the ball to Pollock to blast a shot from a narrow angle past Poom and inside the far post.

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, could reflect later on a brave performance by his players: "It was just character that got us through," he said. "We should have been winning 2-0 at half-time and then suddenly we find ourselves 3-1 down. The players showed great spirit coming back because we had a lot of players missing as well.

"We lost a little discipline after we took the lead and got caught on the counter-attack, which was something I had warned them about — but I can't fault the players for their attitude. There were some great plusses for us today and that point could prove vital for us later in the season."

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): G Ward — G Bergsson, A Todd, C Fairclough, J Phillips — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Sellars (sub: M Johansen, 88min) — P Beardsley (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 88), N Blake.
DERBY COUNTY (3-4-3): M Poom — C Daily, I Stimac, G Rowett — R Kozluk (sub: D Powell 82), S Eranio, L Carsley, C Powell — P Wanchope (sub: D Burton, 82), F Baiano, D Sturridge.
Referee: U Rennie.

West Ham's forward look recalls past glory

WEST HAM UNITED 1
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0

By Ivo Tennant

EVEN for Ron Atkinson, the good times eventually have to come to an end. After three successive victories, Sheffield Wednesday were beaten not so much by a better team as by one whose record on their own ground is the stuff of conquistadors. A single goal was sufficient for West Ham United, and for once it was not scored by John Hartson.

So Atkinson, who, according to a match-programme profile, is "the man with the Midas touch who sweeps into the troubled waters and turns things around", could be forgiven for appearing tetchy. Wednesday had marked Hartson diligently, passed fluently and scrimmaged purposefully. A draw would have been a deserved result.

There was an edge to the humour of Atkinson. He had, quite properly, given those players he inherited from David Pleat every chance to impress and they had not let him down. Yet he would wish to spend some money — perhaps on Gary Speed, of Everton, who wants to return to Yorkshire.

Some money has been spent. Atkinson paid IFK Gothenburg £750,000 for Niclas Alexandersson, the 25-year-old Sweden international midfield player. He was among the substitutes, but did not come on because Wednesday, if anything, performed better than when beating Barnsley last week. Di Canio, in particular, deserved more.

"If we battle and scrap like that for the rest of the season, we shall be all right," Atkinson said. He opted to play Stefanovic at left back and deployed the gangling and gifted Rudi behind Di Canio and Booth. Wednesday belong to the middle, not the lower reaches, of the FA Carling Premiership table and they now have a manager who can take them still higher.

Kitson: scored on his return

For West Ham, the joy was that Kitson scored on his first appearance for three months. His goal was perhaps fortuitous, but any forward who has been injured for three months is deserving of luck. Midway through the second half, Walker attempted to clear a through-ball by Lomas and Kitson's shot on the turn appeared to take a slight deflection past Pressman. It was West Ham's tenth victory in 11 matches this season at Upton Park.

"Last year you could not see anyone at the club scoring a goal for us. Now you can see we are a threat," Harry Redknapp, their manager, said.

In the middle of his discourse, Geoff Hurst walked by. Footballing folk like nothing as much as comparing present with past and nowhere is that more prevalent than at Upton Park, where there is a Bobby Moore Stand, a Trevor Brooking Suite and an urchin around every corner to ask Hurst about his World Cup final hat-trick.

Hartson and Kitson will not reach those heights, but the fact that one says he has no wish to play abroad and the other has recovered after a lengthy spell of injury bodes well for the club's future. This is a potent partnership.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): C Forrest — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — A Impey (sub: T Breacker, 76min), S Lomas, F Lampard, K Rowland — E Berkovic — P Kitson (sub: S Abou, 81), J Hartson.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, J Newsome, D Walker, D Stefanovic — G Whittingham (sub: B Carbone, 69), W Collins, P Rudi, G Hyde (sub: M Pembridge, 57) — A Booth (sub. R Humphreys, 85), P Di Canio
Referee: M Riley.

Everton fans see little reason to join in the Christmas spirit

EVERTON 0
WIMBLEDON 0

By David Maddock

THE worst thing about Christmas and football, as Victor Meldrew might say, is the pre-match audio entertainment. During December those hugely original tunes such as *Simply The Best* are replaced with endless, droning, mock-cheery festive ditties. It is excruciating.

At Goodison Park, though, the PA announcer is, well, a little different. In fact, he frequently sounds as though he has stumbled across a particularly strong batch of hallucinogens. So when he played *I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day* one could not but help applaud the delicious sense of irony.

At Everton they would settle for Christmas once a decade, such is the desperate state of their club. The visit of Wimbledon left the poor supporters about as far away from a sense of festive spirit as it is possible to be. Their feelings were summed up by another wonderfully timed offering from the PA man as the game finished. *Do They Know It's Christmas Time?*

Surprisingly, after another dreadful match at Goodison Park, there was barely any dissent from the faithful. It was as if the near-30,000 crowd had already accepted the worst — that their club will be relegated from the FA Carling Premiership. They are probably right.

We waited until the 67th minute for the first shot on target, a tame effort from the hopelessly lost Cadamerteri, and the 88th minute for the first decent save, a one-handed stop to his left by Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, from a powerful Hinchcliffe drive. We waited forever for an effort by the visiting team. It did not arrive.

Barmby: squandered chance

That Everton were the better team — and should have won because Barmby dragged a simple effort wide in the first half — was no consolation to anybody who attended this match. They were better only because Wimbledon were so bad, and Wimbledon were so bad only because they have lost virtually a whole team through injury and suspension.

"It was a good point for us and a bad day for them," Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, said. "We didn't get at them at all but with our injuries, it is about survival. They had to come and beat us and they couldn't."

Everton could not, because in Barmby and Cadamerteri they had two forwards far more comfortable scurrying out to the flanks. It is four matches since Everton last found the net, nine since they won a game and the run will continue until they find a forward who can actually score goals.

The suspended Duncan Ferguson is not the answer. He has never scored goals regularly, so Howard Kendall must buy to save the club. The fact that he has no money to buy is a minor complication, but one that he still believes he can overcome.

EVERTON (5-3-2): T Myhre — M Ward (sub: E Barrett, 61min), C Short, D Watson, C Tiler, A Hinchcliffe — D Williamson (sub: J Oster, 55), G Farrelly, G Speed — N Barmby, D Cadamarteri
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, B Thatcher, A Kimble — N Ardley, S Solbakken, R Earle, M Hughes — C Cort (sub: A Clarke, 64), M Gayle (sub: V Jones, 37).
Referee: G Ashby

Benali confirms staying power with strike of rare quality

SOUTHAMPTON 2
LEICESTER CITY 1

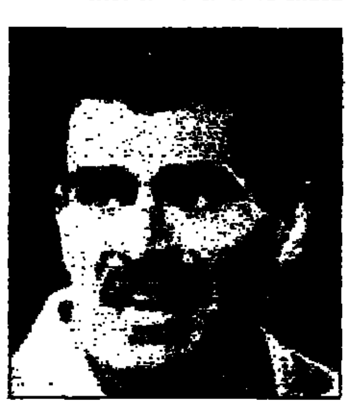
By Russell Kempson

FRANCIS BENALI has long enjoyed semi-cult status at Southampton. As the 5ft 9in former free-scoring England Schoolboys striker who failed to grow in his teens and was transformed into a tough-tackling full back. As the rogue defender who was sent off three times last season and sat out 12 matches because of suspension. And as the spittin' image of Freddie Mercury, the late lead singer of Queen, the rock band, until he shaved off his moustache.

He is revered, too, as mine host of Kuti's Brasserie in the city, the Indian restaurant in which to be seen dining. No Saints supporter has lived until he or she has tasted Benali's best biryani. He is also Southampton's most durable performer, along with Matthew Le Tissier, having served seven managers over 11 seasons. He still commands a regular place.

Few, then, would begrudge him his 15 minutes of fame as he held court after Southampton's victory against Leicester City in the FA Carling Premiership on Saturday. Benali, 28, had scored what proved to be the winner in the 53rd minute, an accurate long-range header from Le Tissier's precise free kick. It was his first goal in 287 matches for the club.

"It's been too long," he said, lapping up the attention. "I hope it's not as long before I score the next one. I just managed to find a bit of space, called for it and Matthew delivered it perfectly. I stayed behind on Friday to do extra shooting practice but it went as usual — you know, all over the place. It was just as well the ball came to my head, otherwise I don't know where it would have ended up." Benali's only previous goal was in his testimonial match last season. "It was nice to score a proper one at last," he said.



Benali: elated

Before kick-off, the game had offered little to enthuse about. Southampton had lost three on the trot, Leicester had won only two in eight. After 84 seconds, Le Tissier roused the crowd when he tucked in the rebound after Keller had saved Hirst's lunging jab from Davies's cross. Considering that it was rumoured he would be dropped, it was the perfect riposte to David Jones, the Southampton manager.

As it was, Le Tissier rarely reached such heights again. He was ineffective, displaying more bulk than brilliance, and although he crafted Benali's goal, he was replaced with ten minutes left.

Leicester should have gained a draw. "I don't know how we lost," Martin O'Neill, their manager, said. Heskey squandered several chances and also struck a post, leaving it to Savage, with a 20-yard flier, to resurrect Leicester's hopes in the 84th minute. It was his first goal in 17 appearances for the club — 270 less than it took Benali to make his belated mark.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Benali — C Palmer, K Richardson (sub: D Hughes, 80min), M Oakley (sub: A Williams, 70), M Le Tissier (sub: E Ostenstad, 80) — K Davies, D Hirst.
LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior (sub: S Claridge, 81), M Elliott, S Walsh — P Kaamark, R Savage, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — G Fenton (sub: S Wilson, 62), E Heskey.
Referee: S Lodge.

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هكذا من الإهمال

Chelsea rue failure to beat nine men at Stamford Bridge while Blackburn keep up title chase

Leeds survive their punishment

CHELSEA 0
LEEDS UNITED 0

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

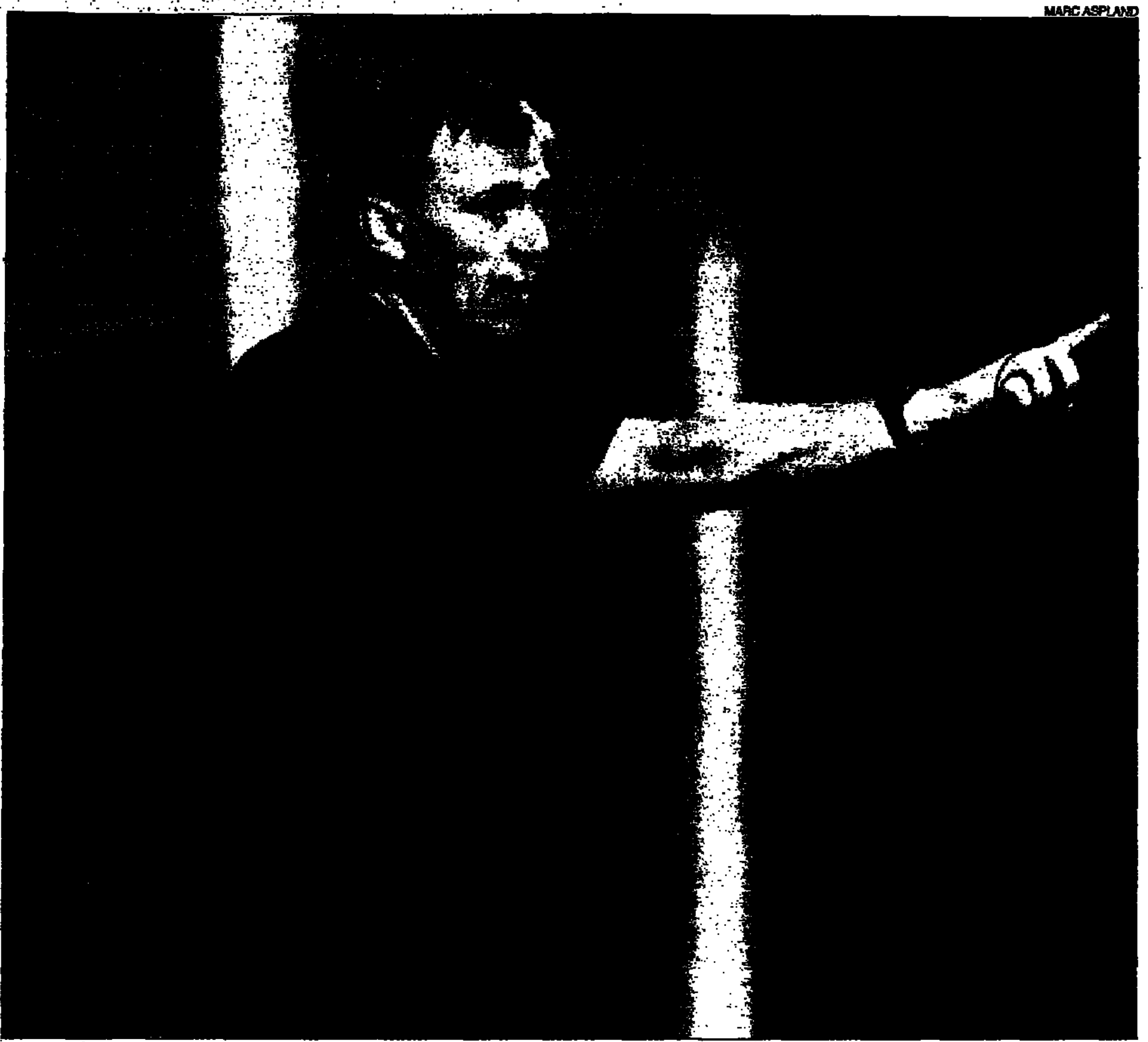
BY THE end, it was like Mafeking or one of those great sieges that James Fenimore Cooper wrote about in *The Last of the Mohicans.* Fusillade after fusillade raked the *Leeds United* defences and prone forms, clutching at tired and injured limbs, littered their penalty area after every Chelsea attack. It was heroism after a fashion, an afternoon for anti-heroes, not heroes.

There was a measure of honour in the Leeds hold-out. Reduced to nine men before half-time, their defiance and their discipline during a second half of relentless Chelsea pressure gave the game a *desperate, urgent* feel. The *head* willed Chelsea on, prayed that they would get the reward that their flair deserved against the spoilers from the North; the heart could not help but admire the resilience of the Leeds survivors, especially on an afternoon when the recent death of Billy Bremner had been marked with a minute's silence.

When that admiration for the obduracy of the nine angry men was stripped away, though, the *blame for the second* Battle of Stamford Bridge — an afternoon when ten yellow cards and two sendings-off in the first 45 minutes ruined any hope of an even contest and could have caused any number of serious injuries among the ranks of the West London club — must be laid at Leeds's door.

George Graham, the Leeds manager, had the grace to accept a degree of culpability on behalf of his team after the match, admitting that he was angered by some of their first-half indiscipline, but he tarnished that by veering off towards the land of xenophobia with *suggestions that some of the* "more technical" of the Chelsea players had overindulged in amateur dramatics whenever they were tackled.

"In the second half," Graham said, "my players showed tremendous discipline. That helped the referee and he needed help. Players were going to ground very quickly, but I did not see the physio having to come on all that often. No one had to go off injured. We admire the talented players and the skill, but let's leave the theatricals behind."


MARC ASPLAND

Calm amid the storm: Poll does his best to point to a more peaceful path as Leeds United fight it out with Chelsea on Saturday

That was nonsense. Leeds may have had two men — Alf Inge Haaland and Gary Kelly — sent off by Graham Poll in the first half, but it should have been three. A scything tackle by Ribeiro on Wise, *followed by a blatant trip by the* same player on the flying Le Saux a few minutes later, yielded only one yellow card when it should have produced two.

Perhaps exhaustion had begun to set in with Poll by then. From the first minute, when he booked Kelly for encroaching at a corner, he had had to deal with a gamut of offences, a rash of bad tackles, simmering feuds and unmissable dissent. By the end of the first half, the blue booking sheet on which he had to list the transgressors and their offences was so full that he ran out of space for the names. "It was a testament to my refereeing that no one was seriously hurt," Poll said modestly after the game.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-*manager, refused to be drawn into* an argument with Graham, but when he was asked whether any of his players had been injured, he smiled ruefully and came on strong with the irony. "Injuries?" he said. "Oh yes. Especially to the calves. I don't know why that could be."

Obliquely, though, Gullit also offered up a damning indictment of the tactics that brought Graham his point on Saturday and lifted Leeds to fourth place in the FA Carling Premiership, hot on Chelsea's heels. "In Europe, you are not allowed to play the way Leeds played today and, because of that, you have to resolve the game technically and tactically, so it demands more. It is very easy to demolish a car, but it takes a lot *longer to build one.*"

Chelsea, so lavishly talented in attack and midfield, deserve their share of the blame for the stalemate, too. Even when they brought on Vialli to partner Flo and Zola up front and threw Duberry forward into the fray, they could not puncture the Leeds back line. Shot after long shot went woefully wide. Sinclair wasted a delightful one-two with Vialli by toe-poking his effort wide from close range after an hour and Vialli himself attempted a spectacular bicycle kick when a chest down would have left him with just Martyn to beat.

The home side's best chance came two minutes from the end, when Duberry ran unmarked on to a cross from Sinclair only to see his *powerful header acrobatically* saved by Martyn. As he contemplated his side's failure to close the gap on Manchester United, Gullit reverted to the analogy of a siege himself. "We did not produce enough quality in the vital moments to demolish that wall," he said.

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, F Leboeuf, M Duberry, G Le Saux — D Petrescu (sub: N Crittenden, 83min), D Wise, R Di Matteo, M Nicholls (sub: G Vialli, 57) — G Zola, T A Flo
LEEDS UNITED (3-5-2): N Martyn — G Halle, L Radebe, D Wetherall — G Kelly, A I Haaland, D Hopkin, B Ribeiro, D Robertson — J F Hasselbaink (sub: D Lilley, 46), R Wallace
Referee: G Poll

Wenger ready to go shopping as Arsenal begin to show their age

ARSENAL 1
BLACKBURN ROVERS 3

By Peter Robinson

ARSENE WENGER identified the problem last season. Home defeats by leading rivals denied Arsenal a place in the Champions' League and, probably, the championship. Between February and May, *they lost to* Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle United.

Now, the same thing is happening. A fortnight ago, Arsenal *were* beaten at Highbury by Liverpool; on Saturday, they were hustled and ultimately humiliated by Blackburn Rovers. There must have been a sense of *déjà vu* for their manager; if so, it would explain why he was, by his admission, uncharacteristically angry — *not merely with the* performance so much as the knowledge that he diagnosed the trouble long ago and had done nothing about it. Wenger trusted his veterans to put it right, to give him another season, and, on Saturday, that decision looked to be a mistake.

Wenger did say, directly, that he did not think age was the problem, but he also said this: "I thought Blackburn lasted longer in the fight than we did. They always closed us down at the back and we did the same for an hour, but then we couldn't do it any more. We were not fresh enough physically any more to put the ball down and put them under pressure."

Arsenal ran out of puff and ideas, in other words. Like an *ageing boxer fighting a younger* challenger, they started well, led at the halfway stage, but as the blows kept coming, as Blackburn kept them running, gave them no time to think, so veteran legs tired, gaps started to appear and the big punches found their target. By the end, Arsenal were ragged. Gary Willard, the referee, should probably have saved them from further punishment late in the eleventh.

There were hints, too, that *Wenger is not going to wait much* longer before buying replacements for the old guard, that, if possible, he will do so from within the English game. The great Arsenal back four, the buttress on which success was built, may finally be dismantled. Ian Wright, brilliant early in the season, may find himself, at 34, fighting for a place in the team against a big-money rival — but more of him later.

The final frustration for Wenger *was not merely that Arsenal failed* to play the studious game that he demands, but that they resorted to the old Arsenal — flat back four, long ball to the centre forward, what they knew best — and were *resoundingly beaten anyway.* Yes, they led at half-time, after Overmars had lobbed Flowers, but the warning lights were flashing. Gallacher ran free after a howler by Adams and only a superb tackle by Keown — outstanding on the day but ultimately outnumbered — denied him an equaliser.

A second Adams slip escaped punishment after the break, but it was asking too much for it to happen a third time, Wilcox burying a Kenna cross that reached him via Sutton and Sherwood. Eight minutes later, in the 65th, a Flowers clearance was headed on by Sutton and Gallacher, all alone, unleashed a luscious left-foot volley that flew over Seaman and into the far corner. By the time that Sherwood had added the third *near the end, Keown and Dixon* had cleared off the line, Sherwood had hit the crossbar and Arsenal were in disarray, reduced to hitting witless, long balls at Bergkamp, who, marked by the peerless Hendry, reached not one.

And Wright? Booked in the course of a fractious display, he faces a two-game suspension and was last heard of receiving a warning from a policeman after yelling pleasantries through a *dressing-room window at disgrun*tled supporters making their way home. A report is to be completed by Holloway police, although it appeared yesterday that the matter was unlikely to be taken farther. Plenty, then, for him to discuss at his next anger management counselling session.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour (sub: P Vieira, 65min), D Platt (sub: L Boa Morte, 75), E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, I Wright
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, C Hendry, G Croft — S Ripley (sub: G Flitcroft, 68), T Sherwood, W McKinlay, J Wilcox — C Sutton, K Gallacher
Referee: G Willard

MANCHESTER UNITED
v
ASTON VILLA
Today, 8.0

Oliver Holt

In the past, it has been Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers who have faltered when they have shown the temerity to get too close to Manchester United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. On Saturday, it was Chelsea who flew too close to the flame, so tonight Alex Ferguson's team have the chance *to open up* a four-point gap.

This time, though, against Aston Villa at Old Trafford, they will have to fight against a factor they have not had to deal with this season. In the past, when they have returned from European trips, they have done so on a *high,* bolstered by wins that took them through to the quarter-finals of the European Cup. *But tonight* they face Villa after the disappointment of their defeat by Juventus in Turin on Wednesday.

That 1-0 reverse left them heavy with disappointment, even though it did not affect their qualification. They would have liked to have played on Saturday to get Juventus out of the system, so Villa may pay the penalty for United's frustration.

Villa, of course, will be on a high after their own European experience, the 2-0 win over Steaua Bucharest that took them through to the quarter-finals of the Uefa Cup.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, G Pallister, P Neville — D Beckham, N Butt, R Johnsen, R Giggs — A Cole, E Sheringham.
ASTON VILLA (probable: 3-5-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, R Scimeca — G Charles, I Taylor, M Draper, S Grayson, S Staunton — S Milosevic, S Collymore.
Referee: P Durkin

■ TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 7pm.
■ PREDICTION: United to charge on.

Gross proves unable to put message across

COVENTRY CITY 4
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0

By Nick Szczepanik

AT THE final whistle, David Ginola slumped to the ground; Les Ferdinand stood, head bowed, hands on his hips: two pictures of dejection. Despair at the injustice of football, perhaps. Or were they wondering what they had got themselves into by exchanging *Tyneside and a European Cup* Champions' League campaign for the bright lights of London and a relegation struggle?

For that, without question, is what Tottenham find themselves in. Next week they face Barnsley at White Hart Lane, when defeat could send them to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, and that match has already assumed enormous significance, not least in the mind of Christian Gross, the *manager, who referred to it several* times on Saturday. "We must win this game," he said. "The situation is critical."

And yet, just as in their previous match, against Chelsea, Tottenham had not been as bad as a scoreline, distorted by a late collapse, had suggested. They could even — do not laugh — *have won. They had* the better early chances and might have led through Ferdinand's powerful header, Ginola's dribble and shot or Carr's interception and run that ended with his left-foot effort from the edge of the penalty area rebounding off a post.

Naturally Coventry, who had lost their previous four matches, scored with their first decent attempt on goal. Tottenham's injury-ravaged defence hesitated as Darren Huckerby pounced on Dublin's headed flick before blasting the ball past Ian Walker.

Fox missed a good chance to *equalise on the stroke of half-time* and, in the second half, Ferdinand's toe-poke was cleared off the line by Nilsson minutes before Gary Breen doubled the lead, shooting in after his header from Burrows's quickly taken free kick had been blocked.

Spurs tried to respond, but Magnus Hedman, the Sweden international replacing Ogrizovic in the Coventry goal, saved well from Fox and Ginola. As the visiting team pressed forward, the back door was left open for Huckerby, shooting thunderously again, and Hall, volleying his first League goal, to complete the scoring.

If it was not exactly the rout that the score suggests, it was a win that will give Coventry much-needed confidence for a programme that pits them against Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal and *Liverpool (twice) in their next half-*dozen games. "Our goals came from determination," Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, said. "We're not a quality side by any manner of means, but we've got to try and bring some quality to the team either by working hard with the players or trying to scrape up some money somewhere. It's no threat to the players who are here. They need help."

But not as much help as Gross needs, either in applying a similar work ethic to the supposed high quality he already has at his disposal, or in dealing with post-match press conferences. One felt for him as he tried manfully to answer questions that his level of *English does not equip him* for. To the more realistic inquiries, his answers were straightforward: yes, he has money to spend, but "interesting" players are all under contract; no, the task is not bigger, nor the Premiership more demanding, than he expected; yes, the players have responded well in the past two weeks.

"In the first half we did well, but I asked *the* team to do more in the offensive way, especially the midfield players," he said. "Unfortunately, the second [goal] killed us. We couldn't come back. We were unlucky, but we have to do more and work harder on the training pitch to bring luck onto our side. I never will explain results by a missing of luck." Even though, on this occasion, you felt he might have had a case.

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): M Hedman — R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — R Nilsson, P Telfer, G McAllister (sub: T E Solvedt, 31min), N Whelan (sub: M O'Neill, 86), M Hall — D Huckerby, D Dublin.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson (sub: J Edinburgh, 70) — R Fox, D Anderton (sub: S Iversen, 51), A Nielsen, A Sinton (sub: S Clemence, 70) — D Ginola, L Ferdinand.
Referee: S Dunn.

Ginola falls to the ground in despair after Tottenham Hotspur's crushing defeat at Highfield Road

Managers unite to praise young warrior Owen

CRYSTAL PALACE 0
LIVERPOOL 3

By Brian Glanville

CRYSTAL Palace had Michele Padovano, Liverpool had Michael Owen. *Palace lost Padovano* after 35 minutes, while Liverpool had Owen for the whole game.

Each has fine control, devastating pace and a *powerful* finish. Twice in the opening 20 minutes, Padovano forced fine saves from James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, with strong, *low shots,* the first after Shipperley had gone past Kvarme and the second when the Italian made himself space when *none seemed* there.

But Owen's acceleration, backed by his courage to go it alone, despite his size, was too much for the Palace defence. On the day before his eighteenth birthday, he tormented Palace from the seventh minute when, after Warhurst gave the ball away, he raced in along the byline to enable McManaman, Liverpool's other hero, to get in a shot, which was blocked. Owen's goal came 12 minutes into the second half when, after Redknapp put him through, he left Linighan in his trail and neatly outwitted the goalkeeper, Miller.

Steve Coppell, the manager of Palace, said: "Owen looked really great." Roy Evans, the manager of Liverpool, added: "He's prepared to take on the big guys. The physical side doesn't bother him. When he's got the chance to run past you, it's a different ball game."

McManaman was the real inspiration of his team and on such form can scarcely be kept out of the England midfield. Ince could not play, but was not missed as McManaman took great responsibility, covered vast areas of ground at speed, used the ball with flair and constantly moved into intelligent positions.

"He's clearing balls off the line, and then he scores at the other end," Evans said. "His general work is fantastic. People think he's just one of those skilful players. He does a lot more."

As if the departure of Padovano because of a pulled hamstring was not enough, Palace lost their other *Italian, Lombardo.* A knock on the tibia forced him off the field five minutes into the second half. "Attilio was stuggling from ten minutes," Coppell said. "He gives us that little bit extra in midfield; we have three who don't get beyond the ball."

With both Italians off, the Palace cupboard was bare. Injuries meant that they had no other striker on the bench and Coppell hesitated to push the versatile Warhurst up front. Instead, he brought on the 20-year-old right winger, Ginty, for his debut, although, as he admitted, Palace's pattern does not include wingers: though surely that is where Lombardo looks best.

Coppell was distressed, having worked to combat short corners during the week, that *Liverpool's* opening goal should come from one. After 40 minutes McAteer's deflected cross from the right reached *McManaman, who scored* with great power.

Liverpool's third goal came after 61 minutes. Gordon was over-committed in his own half and McManaman set Owen free to lay on the chance for Leonhardsen, whose shot was deflected past Miller. Saves by Miller from Leonhardsen and Fowler in the closing minutes kept the score down.

Twice Palace might have had a consolation goal, once when James made a fearful mess of punching away a corner and McManaman cleared off the line, once when Leonhardsen plainly handled in the box but got away with it.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K Miller — P Warhurst, A Linighan, H Hreidarsson — M Edworthy, A Roberts, A Lombardo (sub: R Ginty, 50min), J Fullarton, D Gordon — M Padovano (sub: N Emblen, 35), N Shipperley
LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — J McAteer, B T Kvarme, D Matteo, S Harkness (sub: S I Bjornebye, 89) — J Redknapp, S McManaman, J Carragher, O Leonhardsen (sub: P Berger, 89) — M Owen, R Fowler
Referee: N Barry.

Venables prepared to stay with Australia

By Our Sports Staff

TERRY VENABLES is ready to lead Australia's bid to qualify for the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

The former England coach, who has ruled himself out of coaching Nigeria in the finals next year in France, has agreed in principle to stay with *Australia when his* contract expires next July.

It is believed that the extended contract would enable Venables, 54, to coach at club level, possibly even in the FA Carling Premiership, where he has been linked with several clubs. But Venables would have to make himself available *for Australian international* commitments.

Asked if the proposed agreement would allow Venables to coach in the Premiership, David Hill, chairman of Soccer Australia, said: "The short answer is yes, but with a big qualification that we were able to structure a deal that ensured his availability when Australia needs him. Most international programmes take place when the Premier League is suspended *anyway.*"

Australia want Venables to take the national team into the next millennium, despite their disappointing defeat by Iran on away goals for the last qualifying place for 1998.

"He's really developed an affinity with Australia," Hill said. "The guy clearly is a phenomenal coach. We are paying, by our standards, a lot of money for him, but it's way below what he's worth." The new deal would apparently result in Venables being paid less on an annual basis, but free to do other things. His present contract is understood to be worth £180,000.

Hill believes that Australia's biggest problem is a lack of regular, top-class international matches between World Cups, an issue he is raising with Fifa officials during the Confederations Cup in Riyadh. Hill said: "We've got him [Venables] now at a bargain price, but he understands that in the absence of regular international tournaments we couldn't afford to *pay him at the present rate full-*time."

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL (1) 1 **BLACKBURN** (0) 3
Overmars 18 — Wilcox 57
38,147 — Gallacher 65
Sherwood 89

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, A Adams, M Keown, M Overmars, E Petit, D Platt (sub: L Boa Morte, 76min), R Parlour (sub: P Vieira, 65min), I Wright, D Bergkamp.

Booked: Parlour, Adams, Bergkamp, Wright.

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, S Ripley (sub: G Flitcroft, 68min), K Gallacher, C Sutton, J Wilcox, B McKinlay, G Croft, S Henchoz.

Booked: Kenna, Croft, McKinlay, Hendry.

Referee: G Willard

BARNSLEY (1) 2 **NEWCASTLE** (1) 2
Redfearn 9 — Gillespie 44, 49
Hendrie 75 — 18,687

Barnsley: L Leese, N Eaden, M Appleby (sub: M Bullock, 66min), A Moses, N Redfearn, A Liddell (sub: J Hendrie, 57min), J Bosancic (sub: D Sheridan, 52min), E Tinkler, A Krizan, D Barnard, A Ward.

Booked: Barnard.

Newcastle United: S Hislop, D Batty, D Peacock, R Lee, J Barnes, F Asprilla (sub: J D Tomasson, 66min), S Pearce, K Gillespie, S Watson, A Pistone, P Albert.

Booked: Albert, Pistone, Peacock, Batty.

Referee: P Alcock

CHELSEA (0) 0 **LEEDS** (0) 0
34,690
Sent off: G Kelly (Leeds) 45
A I Haaland (Leeds) 24

Chelsea: E De Goey, D Petrescu (sub: N Crittenden, 86min), F Leboeuf, D Wise, M Duberry, G Le Saux, R Di Matteo, T A Flo, F Sinclair, M Nicholls (sub: G Vialli, 57min), G Zola.

Booked: Di Matteo, Wise, Nicholls.

Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, D Robertson, A I Haaland, L Radebe, D Wetherall, R Wallace, J F Hasselbaink (sub: D Lilley, 46min), B Ribeiro, D Hopkin, G Halle.

Booked: Kelly, Radebe, Haaland, Robertson, Ribeiro.

Referee: G Poll

COVENTRY (1) 4 **TOTTENHAM** (0) 0
Huckerby 42, 84 — 19,499
Breen 63
Hall 87

Coventry City: M Hedman, R Shaw, D Burrows, G Breen, D Huckerby, N Whelan (sub: M O'Neill, 87min), G McAllister (sub: T Soltvedt, 31min), D Dublin, P Telfer, M Hall, R Nilsson.

Booked: Telfer

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, R Fox, A Nielsen, D Anderton (sub: S Iversen, 51min), L Ferdinand, S Carr, D Ginola, D Wilson (sub: J Edinburgh, 70min), A Sinton (sub: S Clemence, 70min).

Referee: S Dunn.

C PALACE (0) 0 **LIVERPOOL** (1) 3
25,790 — McManaman 39
Owen 56
Leonhardsen 61

Crystal Palace: K Miller, M Edworthy, D Gordon, A Roberts, A Linighan, A Lombardo (sub: R Ginty, 49min), P Warhurst, N Shipperley, M Padovano (sub: N Emblen, 34min), H Hreidarsson, J Fullarton.

Booked: Fullarton, Emblen.

Liverpool: D James, B T Kvarme, J McAteer, S McManaman, O Leonhardsen (sub: S I Bjornebye, 89min), R Fowler, J Redknapp, S Harkness (sub: P Berger, 89min), M Owen, D Matteo, J Carragher. Referee: N Barry

EVERTON (0) 0 **WIMBLEDON** (0) 0
28,533

Everton: T Myhre, C Short, D Watson, C Tiler, M Ward (sub: E Barrett, 61min), D Williamson (sub: J Oster, 55min), G Speed, G Farrelly, A Hinchcliffe, D Cadamarteri, N Barmby.

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, D Blackwell, B Thatcher, R Earle, S Solbakken, M Gayle (sub: V Jones, 87min), C Hughes, N Ardley, C Cort (sub: A Clarke, 63min).

Referee: G Ashby

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 **LEICESTER** (0) 1
Le Tissier 2 — Savage 84
Benali 54 — 15,121

Southampton: P Jones, J Dodd, F Benali, C Palmer, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, M Le Tissier (sub: E Ostenstad, 80min), M Oakley (sub: A Williams, 70min), D Hirst, K Davies, K Richardson (sub: D Hughes, 80min).

Booked: Ostenstad

Leicester City: K Keller, R Savage, S Prior (sub: S Claridge, 80min), M Elliott, P Kaamark, S Walsh, S Guppy, N Lennon, M Izzet, E Heskey, G Fenton (sub: S Wilson, 62min).

Booked: Keller

Referee: S Lodge.

WEST HAM (0) 1 **SHEFF WED** (0) 0
Kitson 58 — 24,344

West Ham United: C Forrest, D Unsworth, I Pearce, R Ferdinand, A Impey (sub: T Breacker, 77min), K Rowland, S Lomas, F Lampard, E Berkovic, P Kitson (sub: S Abou, 82min), J Hartson.

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, I Nolan, J Newsome, D Walker, G Whittingham (sub: B Carbone, 69min), A Booth (sub: R Humphreys, 85min), P Di Canio, G Hyde (sub: M Pembridge, 57min), D Stefanovic, W Collins, P Rudi.

Booked: Collins, Hyde.

Referee: M Riley.

Yesterday

BOLTON (0) 3 **DERBY** (0) 3
Thompson 50 (pen) — Eranio 55
Blake 73 — Baiano 64, 69
Pollock 77 — 23,037

Bolton Wanderers: G Ward, P Frandsen, J Pollock, S Sellars (sub: M Johansen, 88min), N Blake, A Thompson, G Bergsson, P Beardsley (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 88min), A Todd, C Fairclough, J Phillips.

Derby County: M Poom, G Rowett, C Powell, I Stimac, D Sturridge, P Wanchope (sub: D Burton, 81min), L Carsley, S Eranio, C Dailly, R Kozluk (sub: D Powell, 81min), F Baiano.

Booked: Eranio, Rowett, Baiano.

Referee: U Rennie

GOALSCORERS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 17: J Hartson (West Ham). 15: A Cole (Man Utd). 12: C Sutton (Blackburn); D Bergkamp (Arsenal). 11: F Baiano (Derby). 10: I Wright (Arsenal); K Gallacher (Blackburn); R Wallace (Leeds); K Davies (Southampton); P Wanchope (Derby); G Vialli (Chelsea).

Includes all competitions

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (0) 2 **MAN CITY** (0) 1
Forster 89 — Shelia 88
O Connor 90 — 21,014

BRADFORD (1) 1 **BURY** (0) 0
McGinlay 25 — 15,812
Sent off: Edinho (Bradford) 90
P Swan (Bury) 90

CHARLTON (0) 1 **PORT VALE** (0) 0
Newton 84 — 11,077

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 **NORWICH** (2) 3
Stewart 58 — Forbes 3
11,436 — Bellamy 40
Grant 90

IPSWICH (1) 2 **PORTSMTH** (0) 0
Cundy 30 — 11,641
Johnson 68

MIDDLESBRO (0) 4 **READING** (0) 0
Hignett 77, 90 — 29,876
Beck 79, 84

SHEFF UTD (1) 2 **SWINDON** (1) 1
Holdsworth 45 — Finney 24
Saunders 81 — 18,115

STOCKPORT (1) 3 **TRANMERE** (1) 1
Chris Byrne 45 — Aldridge 33
Cooper 47 — 7,903
Angell 90

STOKE (0) 0 **CREWE** (1) 2
14,623 — Smith 11
Little 75

SUNDERLAND (1) 2 **WEST BROM** (0) 0
Phillips 40 — 29,231
Johnston 53

Yesterday

WOLVRHMPTN (1) 2 **NOTTM F** (0) 1
Freedman 20 — Johnson 84
Robinson 66 — 24,635

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Oxford Utd 3 Queens Park Rangers 1

SECOND DIVISION

BRENTFORD (1) 3 **BLACKPOOL** (1) 1
Taylor 32 — Preece 4
Townley 62, 78 — 3,725
Sent off: C Malkin (Blackpool) 56
B Dixon (Blackpool) 61

BURNLEY (0) 0 **WIGAN** (2) 2
9,520 — Lee 13
Jones 44

CARLISLE (0) 2 **FULHAM** (0) 0
Stevens 60, 84 — 4,574

CHESTRFLD (0) 0 **LUTON** (0) 0
4,358

GILLINGHAM (1) 1 **SOUTHEND** (0) 2
Southall 4 — Coulbault 89
4,774 — Boere 90

PLYMOUTH (2) 3 **MILLWALL** (0) 0
Collins 23 — 4,460
Billy 43
Corazzin 78 (pen)

PRESTON (0) 1 **NORTHMPTN** (0) 0
Macken 56 — 7,448

WALSALL (0) 2 **BOURNEMTH** (0) 1
Boli 60 — Robinson 72
Hodge 66 — 3,548

WATFORD (0) 1 **BRISTOL CITY** (0) 1
Noel-Williams 85 — Goater 54
16,072

WYCOMBE (0) 2 **OLDHAM** (0) 1
Scott 53 — Barlow 72
McGavin 83 — 5,327

YORK (0) 1 **WREXHAM** (0) 0
Barras 62 — 2,871

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Bristol R 0 Grimsby 4

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (0) 3 **MACCLSFLD** (0) 1
Searle 56 — Wood 68
Adams 70 — 1,710
Devine 34

CARDIFF (0) 0 **PETERBORO** (0) 0
3,401

CHESTER (0) 2 **DARLINGTON** (0) 1
McDonald 74 — Davidson 89 (og)
Alsford 86 — 1,812

HULL (0) 3 **COLCHESTER** (0) 1
Dewhurst 55 — Adcock 89
Rioch 58 (pen) — 3,896
Darby 84

LINCOLN (1) 1 **HARTLPOOL** (0) 1
Cullen 14 (og) — Cullen 90
2,849

MANSFIELD (1) 1 **BRIGHTON** (0) 1
Whitehall 1 — Minton 83
2,197

NOTTS CO (3) 5 **DONCASTER** (1) 2
Saradough 2, 8 (pen) — Pell 28
Utley 20 (og) — Smith 87 (pen)
Finnan 74 — 4,024
Farrell 84

ROCHDALE (2) 3 **SWANSEA** (0) 0
Painter 26, 37 — 1,482
Leonard 62
Sent off: K Ampadu (Swansea) 81

ROTHERHAM (0) 0 **TORQUAY** (0) 1
3,636 — Gibbs 59 (pen)

SCUNTHRPE (1) 1 **SCARBORO** (2) 3
D Forrester 10 — Williams 20, 35 (pen)
2,535 — Conway 59

SHRWSBURY (0) 1 **L ORIENT** (2) 2
Steele 90 — Simpson 21
2,137 — Smith 38
Sent off: C McKenzie (L Orient) 59

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Cambridge Utd 2 Exeter 1

GOALSCORERS

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: 17: P Van Hooijdonk (Nottm Forest). 15: B Angell (Stockport). 14: C Hay (Swindon), C Mendonca (Charlton). 13: D Johnson (Ipswich). 12: M Beck (Middlesbrough). 11: A Hunt (West Brom), A Armstrong (Stockport), P Thorne (Stoke), J Beauchamp (Oxford Utd). 10: K Campbell (Nottm Forest), J A Fjortoft (Sheff Utd), L Jones (Tranmere), P Merson (Middlesbrough), B Deane (Sheff Utd).

SECOND DIVISION: 17: R Boli (Walsall). 14: S Goater (Bristol City). 13: M Stallard (Wycombe), R Rowe (York), R Taylor (Brentford). 12: A Akinbiyi (Gillingham), S Barlow (Oldham), P Peschisolido (Fulham), B Hayles (Bristol Rovers); A Thorpe (Luton).

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

CELTIC (0) 1 **HEARTS** (0) 0
Burley 80 — 50,035

Celtic: J Gould, T Boyd, S Mahe, J McNamara, M Rieper (sub: E Annoni, 24min), A Stubbs, H Larsson (sub: D Jackson, 80min), C Burley, M Wieghorst, P Lambert, R Blinker (sub: H Brattbakk, 60min).

Hearts: G Rousset, A McManus, N Pointon (sub: S Fraul, 80min), D Weir, S Salvatori, P Ritchie, N McCann, S Fulton, S Adam (sub: J Hamilton, 81min), I Cameron, T Flogel (sub: J Quitongo, 81min).

Referee: B Tait.

DUNFRLNE (0) 0 **RANGERS** (0) 0
12,115

Dunfermline: I Westwater, G Shields, M McCulloch, A Tod, D Barnett, H Curran, I Den Bieman, C Robertson, S Petrie, G Shaw (sub: A Moore, 71min), D Bingham (sub: S Duarte, 74min).

Rangers: P Snelders, A Cleland, S Stensaas (sub: I Durrant, 83min), R Gough (sub: G Bollan, 45min), S Porrini, J Bjorklund, J Thern, S McCall, M Negri, R Gattuso, G Durie.

Booked: Gattuso, Durie, Bollan.

Referee: G Simpson.

HIBERNIAN (1) 2 **ABERDEEN** (1) 2
Walker 2, 83 — Dodds 43
10,001 — Jess 68

Hibernian: C Reid, J Boco, A Dow, A Dods, J Hughes, J Chamley (sub: K Harper, 71min), A Walker, C Jackson, S Crawford, A Rougier (sub: W Miller, 71min), P McGinlay.

Booked: Walker

Aberdeen: J Leighton, R Anderson, B O'Neil, J Inglis, A Kombouare, G Smith, D Rowson, E Jess, M Newell, D Dodds (sub: P Bernard, 80min), S Glass.

Referee: W Young

MOTHERWLL (0) 1 **DUNDEE UTD** (0) 0
Coyle 52 — 4,555

Motherwell: S Woods, E May (sub: I Ross, 78min), S McMillan, R Newman, B Martin, J Philliben, J Hendry, E Shivute, T Coyne, S McSkimming, O Coyle (sub: M Weir, 67min)

Booked: Newman.

Dundee United: S Dykstra, M Skoldmark (sub: G McSwegan, 56min), M Malpas, S Pressley, M Perry, E Pedersen, K Olofsson, L Zetterlund, R Winters, C Easton (sub: A McLaren, 74min), J Dolan

Booked: Skoldmark

Referee: J Underhill

ST JOHNSTN (0) 0 **KILMARNICK** (0) 1
O'Boyle 79 (pen) — Mitchell 71
4,385

St Johnstone: A Main, J McQuillan, C Davidson (sub: T Wright, 29min), N Dasovic (sub: L Jenkinson, 75min), A Kernaghan, J Weir, P Scott, J O'Neil (sub: R Grant, 70min), P Kane, G O'Boyle, A Preston

Booked: O'Neil, O'Boyle, Wright.

Kilmarnock: D Lekovic, A MacPherson, D Kerr, J Lauchlan, R Montgomerie, M Reilly, P Nevin, G Holt, A Wright (sub: A Burke, 86min), J Vareille (sub: M Roberts, 83min), A Mitchell.

Referee: G Alison.

FIRST DIVISION

AYR (0) 0 **ST MIRREN** (0) 2
2,411 — Turner 58
Yardley 87

DUNDEE (0) 0 **STIRLING** (0) 0
2,751

G MORTON (0) 0 **FALKIRK** (1) 2
2,780 — Hagen 39
James 82

PARTICK (0) 1 **RAITH** (1) 3
Morgan 80 (pen) — Browne 36
3,214 — Wright 70, 71
Sent off: P Hardey (Raith) 79

POSTPONED: Hamilton v Airdrie

POOLS PANEL VERDICT: HT: no score draw; FT: home win

SECOND DIVISION

CLYDEBANK (1) 1 **INVERNESS CT** (0) 1
McDonald 16 — Ross 88
326

EAST FIFE (2) 3 **BRECHIN** (0) 1
Ronald 19, 83 — McNeill 61
Moffat 28 — 361

FORFAR (2) 2 **LIVINGSTON** (1) 2
Watson 20 (og) — Conway 5
McLauchlan 37 — Young 67
410

STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 3 **STRANRAER** (0) 0
McCutcheon 41, 66 — 350
Little 72

THIRD DIVISION

ARBROATH (2) 3 **COWDNBTH** (2) 2
Burns 22 — Winter 12
Spence 27 — Millar 26
McWalter 71 — 630

BERWICK (1) 1 **MONTROSE** (0) 2
Forrester 1 — McGlashan 48 (pen), 85
322

EAST STIRLING (0) 1 **ALBION** (0) 0
McBride 64 — 335
Sent off: B Duffy (Albion) 41
G McDougall (East Stirling) 72

QUEEN'S PARK (2) 3 **ALLOA** (0) 0
Arbuckell 19 — 625
Edgar 25, 46

ROSS CO (2) 2 **DUMBARTON** (2) 3
Wood 12, 31 — Meechan 18, 42
1,226 — Glancy 75

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP

FIRST ROUND

FRASERBURGH (1) 1 **CLYDE** (0) 0
Stephen 7 — 270
Sent off: I Murray (Fraserburgh) 8

GOALSCORERS

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: PREMIER DIVISION: 30: M Negri (Rangers). 14: H Larsson (Celtic), R Winters (Dundee Utd), G McSwegan (Dundee Utd). 13: A Smith (Dunfermline).

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Atalanta Bergamo 1 AC Milan 2; Bari 0 Udinese 0; Bologna 2 Lecce 0; Empoli 4 Sampdoria 1; Internazionale 3 AS Roma 0; Lazio 1 Brescia 0; Napoli 0 Parma 4; Piacenza 1 Juventus 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internazionale	12	9	3	0	29	12	30
Juventus	12	7	5	0	26	9	26
Udinese	12	7	2	3	25	22	23
Parma	12	6	4	2	22	9	22
AS Roma	12	6	4	2	23	13	22
AC Milan	12	5	4	3	17	12	19
Lazio	12	5	3	4	17	13	18
Vicenza	11	5	3	3	16	17	18
Sampdoria	12	4	4	4	18	22	16
Fiorentina	11	3	5	3	19	14	14
Empoli	12	4	1	7	17	21	13
Brescia	12	4	1	7	16	21	13
Bologna	12	2	5	5	20	22	11
Atalanta	12	3	2	7	12	18	11
Piacenza	12	2	5	5	10	17	11
Bari	12	3	2	7	10	22	11
Lecce	12	3	1	8	9	22	10
Napoli	12	1	2	9	8	28	5

Does not include last night's matches

SPANISH LEAGUE: Barcelona 3 Espanyol 1; Athletic de Bilbao 2 Celta 1; Mallorca 1 Betis 2; Valencia 4 Compostela 1; Deportivo La Coruna 1 Real Sociedad 1; Sporting Gijon 1 Salamanca 1; Racing Santander 2 Zaragoza 3. Real Madrid 1 Merida 0; Valladolid 1 Oviedo 0

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	16	12	1	3	35	19	37
Real Madrid	16	10	5	1	28	11	35
Atletico Madrid	15	8	5	2	34	16	29
Espanyol	16	7	7	2	24	11	28
Real Sociedad	16	7	7	2	23	11	28
Celta	16	8	3	5	27	20	27
Betis	16	7	5	4	23	21	26
Athletic Bilbao	16	6	7	3	21	18	25
Zaragoza	16	6	5	5	26	27	23
Oviedo	16	5	8	3	17	18	23
Mallorca	16	5	6	5	22	15	21
Racing	16	5	4	7	18	22	19
Merida	16	4	4	8	12	22	16
Valladolid	16	4	4	8	13	25	16
Deportivo	16	2	9	5	17	21	15

Does not include last night's matches

GERMAN LEAGUE: Hamburg 1 Wolfsburg 2; Cologne 4 Borussia Dortmund 2; Schalke 1 Duisburg 1; Stuttgart 1 Arminia Bielefeld 0; Karlsruhe 0 1860 Munich 0; Bayern Munich 3 Borussia Monchengladbach 2; Hertha Berlin 2 Kaiserslautern 0; Rostock 1 Bremen 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaiserslautern	19	13	3	3	39	23	42
Bayern Munich	19	11	5	3	40	23	38
VfB Stuttgart	19	10	5	4	39	22	35
Schalke 04	19	8	7	4	21	16	31
Bayer Leverkusen	18	8	6	4	34	22	30
VfL Wolfsburg	19	8	3	8	25	27	27
Hansa Rostock	19	7	4	8	29	27	25
MSV Duisburg	19	7	4	8	23	25	25
Hertha Berlin	18	7	4	7	23	26	25
Werder Bremen	19	7	4	8	23	30	25
Karlsruhe	19	6	6	7	31	38	24
Borussia Dortmund	18	5	6	7	28	28	21
1860 Munich	19	5	6	8	22	33	21
Hamburg SV	19	5	5	9	25	31	20
Cologne	19	6	2	11	30	42	20
Monchengladbach	19	4	7	8	30	36	19
VfL Bochum	18	5	4	9	23	30	19
Arminia Bielefeld	19	6	1	12	23	31	19

Does not include last night's matches

FRENCH LEAGUE: Bordeaux 0 Cannes 1; Nantes 2 Strasbourg 1; Lyon 0 Le Havre 1; Chateauroux 1 Bastia 1; Toulouse 1 Montpellier 1; Guingamp 1 Auxerre 1; Lens 0 Marseille 1.

DUTCH LEAGUE: RKC Waalwijk 1 Fortuna Sittard 2; Volendam 0 Ajax Amsterdam 3. Groningen 1 NAC Breda 1; Feyenoord 2 Twente Enschede 2; Heerenveen 3 Vitesse Arnhem 2; Roda JC Kerkrade 3 MVV Maastricht 0; Sparta Rotterdam 4 Willem II Tilburg 1.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: FC Brugge 2 Lommel 0; Harelbeke 1 Anderlecht 1; Westerlo 0 Aalst 3; Beveren 0 Ekeren 1; Antwerp 1 Lokeren 2; RWD Molenbeek 1 Charleroi 2; Lierse 2 Mouscron 0; Ghent 1 St Truiden 1.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Maritimo 1 Benfica 0; FC Porto 1 Guimaraes 0; Academica 0 Rio Ave 0; Belenenses 1 Salgueiros 2; Campomaiorense 4 Braga 0; Leca 2 Farense 1; Amadora 4 Chaves 1; Varzim 0 Boavista 0.

CONFEDERATION CUP (Riyadh): Group A: Saudi Arabia 5 Mexico 0; Australia 0 Brazil 0; Saudi Arabia 0 Brazil 3; Australia 3, Mexico 1. Group B: South Africa 2 Czech Republic 2, Uruguay 2 United Arab Emirates 0.

Giuseppe Signori, right, of Sampdoria, holds off the Brazilian, Fabio, of Empoli, during their Italian League match. Photograph: Fabrizio Giovanozzi

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

CHELTENHAM (1) 2 **MORECAMBE** (1) 1
Walker 15 — Healy 41
Watkins 76 — 1,717
Sent off: D Wright (Cheltenham) 20

FARNBOROUGH (1) 2 **YEOVIL** (2) 2
Mehew 11 — Archer 18
Wingfield 63 — Al-James Hannigan 26
1,093

GATESHEAD (2) 2 **STEVENAGE** (1) 1
Proudlock 7 — Perkins 23
Robinson 11 — 349

HEREFORD (0) 2 **HEDNESFORD** (1) 1
Fishlock 59 — Hemmings 31
Grayson 61 — 2,278

KETTERING (0) 0 **WELLING** (0) 1
1,144 — Cooper 57
Sent off: M Watson (Welling) 67

LEEK (2) 2 **HALIFAX** (0) 0
Soley 7 — 1,282
Ellis 22
Sent off: N Horner (Halifax) 71

NORTHWICH (0) 0 **SOUTHPORT** (0) 0
974

RUSHDEN & D (2) 4 **DOVER** (0) 1
Collins 29, 83 — Ayorinde 75
West 31, 65 — 2,284

SLOUGH (1) 2 **KIDDRMNSTR** (0) 0
Owusu 42, 52 — 746

STALYBRIDGE (0) 1 **TELFORD** (2) 2
Ramsey 79 — Turner 11
534 — Colley 13

WOKING (2) 3 **HAYES** (0) 0
Payne 28 — 2,435
Danzey 40
Steele 47

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halifax	20	10	0	0	31	7	4	4	2	12	12	46
Hednesford	20	8	2	0	16	6	3	4	3	17	18	39
Morecambe	19	5	3	2	20	17	6	2	1	22	8	38
Cheltenham	18	7	2	0	20	8	4	3	2	12	10	38
Rushden	21	6	2	3	22	16	5	0	5	14	17	35
Woking	20	6	3	1	22	10	3	4	3	11	11	34
Hayes	20	5	2	3	16	11	4	2	4	15	12	31
Southport	19	5	2	2	20	13	3	4	3	13	11	30
Yeovil	17	6	1	2	18	10	2	2	4	12	12	27
Hereford	19	4	3	3	15	13	3	3	3	12	11	27
Slough	18	3	2	4	15	14	4	3	2	13	10	26
Dover	19	4	1	3	10	11	3	2	6	16	26	24
Stevenage	20	3	4	2	15	11	2	3	6	11	17	22
Leek	20	4	4	3	15	11	1	3	5	11	21	22
Welling	18	3	3	3	14	14	3	1	5	11	18	22
Northwich	20	2	7	1	17	14	1	5	4	13	19	21
Kiddrmnstr	21	3	4	3	16	14	2	2	7	13	21	21
Farnborough	19	3	3	4	12	15	2	2	5	12	23	20
Telford	20	1	3	4	8	14	3	3	6	17	25	18
Stalybridge	19	3	3	4	16	15	1	0	8	7	20	15
Kettering	19	2	3	5	11	14	0	3	6	8	17	12
Gateshead	20	2	2	7	11	23	0	4	5	11	22	12

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 1 Altrinchm 1, Alfreton 1 Colwyn Bay 1, Barrow 1 Winsford 2; Blyth Spartans 1 Hyde 1; Boston 1 Bamber Bridge 1. Chorley 4 Spennymoor 1, Emley 2 Marine 0; Gainsborough 1 Bishop Auckland 0; Lancaster 0 Leigh RMI 1; Radcliffe 0 Runcorn 0

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	23	14	4	5	35	15	46
Bishop Auck	23	11	7	5	46	32	40
Runcorn	22	11	4	7	41	28	37
Boston Utd	21	9	9	3	27	19	36
Altrnchm	23	10	4	9	39	27	34
Guiseley	21	8	9	4	31	26	33
Emley	19	9	4	6	33	26	31
Winsford Utd	17	9	3	5	21	15	30
Colwyn Bay	20	8	5	7	28	30	29
Gainsboro	18	8	4	6	23	18	28
Hyde Utd	21	6	9	6	33	28	27
Spennymr	19	7	6	6	25	28	27
Chorley	23	8	3	12	31	45	27

FIRST DIVISION: Belper Town 0 Ashton 7, Congleton 1 Gretna 0; Droylsden 0 Netherfield 0; Farsley Celtic 2 Eastwood Town 2; Flixton 0 Lincoln 0; Matlock Town 1 Great Harwood 2, Stocksbridge PS 4 Harrogate Town 2; Whitby 2 Worksop 2, Whitley Bay 1 Bradford PA 0; Workington 1 Witton 4

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Atherstone 4 St Leonards 0, Bath 0 Burton 0; Bromsgrove 2 Salisbury 2, Crawley 1 Merthyr 2; Dorchester 1 Cambridge City 1, Forest Green 4 Nuneaton 2, Gresley 2 Ashford 0; Hastings 3 King's Lynn 2; Rothwell 1 Halesowen 1; Sittingbourne 0 Tamworth 1; Worcester 2 Gloucester 1

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Merthyr	19	13	4	2	34	12	43
Forest Green	20	11	4	5	46	32	37
Halesowen	20	9	7	4	30	13	34
Atherstone	20	10	4	6	29	23	34
Dorchester	20	9	6	5	31	19	33
Bath	19	9	6	4	36	25	33
Worcester City	19	10	3	6	25	20	33
Kings Lynn	17	9	4	4	26	24	31
Burton Albion	21	8	6	7	26	21	30
Crawley Town	21	8	6	7	34	32	30
Tamworth	19	8	4	7	37	31	28
Nuneaton	19	8	3	8	40	31	27

MIDLAND DIVISION. Brackley 1 Stafford 2, Grantham 6 Corby 5, Hinckley 2 PC Warwick 1; Ilkeston 3 Bedworth 1, Redditch 0 Bilston 1; Shepshed Dynamo 2 VS Rugby 2, Solihull Boro 1 Raunds 1, Stourbridge 0 Paget 0; Sutton Coldfield Town 0 Moor Green 1; Wisbech 4 Evesham 3. Southern division: Baldock 2 Tonbridge Angels 1 Bashley 6 Erith and Belvedere 2. Cirencester 1 Cinderford 2; Clevedon 1 Fisher 0; Dartford 3 Weston-s-Mare 2; Havant 1 Trowbridge 0; Margate 2 Newport AFC 1 Newport IOW 1 Witney 1; Waterlooville 4 Fleet 1

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE. Premier division: Southend Manor 0 Burnham Ramblers 6, East Ham 3 Eton Manor 2. Ilford 0 Concord 3, Sawbridgeworth 1 Hullbridge Sports 0, Stansted 4 Saffron Walden 2.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont 2 Walton Casuals 2; Feltham 2 Cove 0 Hartley Wintney 1 Godalming and Guildford 8 Merstham 1 Ash 2, Reading 3 Farnham 0 Westfield 3 Viking Sports 1. Premier challenge cup. Sandhurst 1 Netherne 3

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Chesham 1 Kingstonian 1; Dulwich 0 Basingstoke 1; Enfield 2 Hitchin 1, Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Bishop's Stortford 2. Hendon 4 Walton and Hersham 0; Heybridge Swifts 1 Harrow 0. Oxford City 2 Dag and Red 0; Purfleet 1 Carshalton 2, St Albans 0 Bromley 1; Sutton United 2 Aylesbury 1; Yeading 0 Boreham Wood 1

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dagenham & R	21	14	4	3	43	19	46
Sutton Utd	20	12	5	3	42	23	41
Kngstnian	21	10	8	3	37	22	38
Boreham W	18	9	4	5	37	22	31
Harrow Boro	18	10	1	7	28	26	31
Enfield	22	8	5	9	32	35	29
Heybridge	17	9	1	7	33	28	28
Purfleet	19	7	6	6	26	27	27
Aylesbury	21	8	3	10	26	35	27
Walton & H	20	6	3	9	25	34	27

FIRST DIVISION: Abingdon Town 1 Romford 6, Aldershot Town 0 Maidenhead United 2. Barton Rovers 0 Wokingham 3; Billericay 1 Leatherhead 0. Bognor 4 Thame Utd 0; Chertsey 3 Grays 3, Croydon 0 Wembley 1 Hampton 2 Worthing 0; Leyton Pennant 0 Berkhamsted 1, Uxbridge 0 Staines 0; Whyteleafe 2 Molesey 2. Second division: Edgware 0 Bracknell 1; Egham 4 Canvey Island 3, Horsham 1 Barking 2. Hungerford 1 Windsor and Eton 2; Marlow 0 Wivenhoe 1; Northwood 3 Met Police 3; Tilbury 1 Chalfont St Peter 2. Postponed: Banstead v Bedford Town. Third division: Croydon 5 Wingate and Finchley 1; East Thurrock 3 Corinthian 0; Epsom and Ewell 1 Ware 2, Harlow 2 Clapton 0; Hornchurch 4 Tring 2; Kingsbury 0 Ford 2; Lewes 3 Hertford 0, Southall 2 Flackwell Heath 2.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham 0 Whitstable 2. Cray 3 Corinthian 1; Crockenhill 0 Ramsgate 3, Erith 2 Canterbury 1; Swanley Furness 5 Deal 0; Thamesmead 3 Hythe 2; Tunbridge Wells 2 Slade Green 3; VCD 2 Lordswood 4.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division. Arundel 1 Mile Oak 1, Chichester 1 Redhill 1; Eastbourne Town 1 Pagham 0; Hailsham 0 Hassocks 1; Ringmer 0 Shoreham 1, Selsey 3 Horsham YMCA 2; Whitehawk 1 Portfield 1, Wick 3 Saltdean 1

FA CARLSBERG VASE. Third round: Marske 1 Bedlington 2; Stockton 1 Burscough 2; Mossley 0 West Auckland 2. Poulton 1 Aldsgrove Ath 4; Tow Law 2 Dunston Fed Brewery 1; Billingham Town 1 Friar Lane OB 0; Arnold 1 North Ferriby 3. Clitheroe 3 Boston 0; Oadby 4 Seaham Red Star 1; Brigg 1 Hucknall 2, Denaby 0 Bestall 1; Thackley 2 Stamford 3. Bloxwich 1 Spalding 3; Braintree 4 Banstead Ath 2 Hemel Hempstead 2 Taunton 3; Lymington 2 Woodbridge 0; Bodmin 5 Bowers 3 Wimborne 0 Tiverton 4; Basildon 1 Herne Bay 3; Cowes Sports 1 Chard 1, Porthleven 3 Arlesey 2; Endsport 0 Potters Bar 4, Folkestone Invicta 2 Chipstead 1, Brook House 0 Histon 0; Peacehaven and Telscombe 1 Sudbury 2; Aveley 1 Wroxham 2. Stotfold 2 Ashford 1, Thatcham 0 Burgess Hill 3; Great Wakering Rvrs 2 Maidstone 1; Brache Sparta 8 Ely 1; Chippenham 2 Tooting and Mitcham 3. Camberley 3 Sudbury Wndrs 3

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division. Barnstaple 1 Bristol Manor Farm 1, Bideford 3 Backwell 2; Brislington 3 Mangotsfield 1; Elmore 2 Odd Down 0 Keynsham 1 Torrington 0, Melksham 1 Calne 1; Paulton 1 Westbury 0

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE. First division: Atherton Collieries 2 Holker Old Boys 0; Darwen 0 Maine Road 3 Glossop North End 1 Haslingden 2, Nantwich 1 Chadderton 0; Newcastle Town 4 Atherton LR 0; Ramsbottom 2 Rossendale 2, Salford 0 Vauxhall GM 1; St Helens 4 Blackpool Rovers 4, Warrington 1 Prescot Cables 3

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Bradfieldians 9 Eastbournians 0; Haberdashers 1 Wykehamists 5. Premier Division: Etonians 2 Foresters 1. Salopians 1 Brentwoods 3. First division: Haileyburians 2 Aldenhamians 4: Harrovians 1 Reptonians 4

AFA SENIOR CUP: Second round: Latymer OB 2 O Salesians 4; O Aloysians 3 O Wilsonians 2; Wake Green 0 O Tenisonians 1. O Bromleians 3 O Vaughanians 2; O Ignatians 4 O Cholmeleians 0; O Minchendenians 2 Nat West Bank 5; O Stationers 3 Enfield OG 1; O Tiffinians 2 EBOG 0; Carshalton 2 Civil Service 1; City of London 1 Crouch End Vampires 2; Norsemen 3 Southgate County 1 O Finchleians 5 Nottsborough 3; O Latymerians 3 Alexandra Park 3. O Owens 3 Midland Bank 1, 2; Polytechnic 3 Barclays Bank 2; West Wickham 1 Lensbury 0.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn OB 1 Old Suttonians 0; Old Hamptonians 2 C Manning OB 1. Senior first division: Old Isleworthians 0 Chertsey OS 1, Old Kingsburians 0 Old Manorians 3; Old Reigatians 2 Old Salvatorians 0, Phoenix OB 2 Old Buckwellians 1

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 1 Gornal 0; Darlaston 3 Wolverhampton Casuals 2; Ettingshall 1 Bustleholme 3. Kington 10 Wolverhampton 0. Ludlow 2 Westfields 3; Lye 3 Stourport 3, Malvern 1 Brierley Hill 3; Stafford 2 Walsall Wood 1; Tividale 3 Cradley 2

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Boldmere St M 1 Wednesfield 2; Chasetown 3 Oldbury U 4; Halesowen H 0 Kings Norton 1. Rushall O 3 Barwell 1; Sandwell 1 Knypersley V 1; Shirral T 1 Pershore T 3; Stapenhill 0 Pelsall V 2; Stratford TOW Mid Police 3; Willenhall 0 Bridgnorth 0.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 4 Curzon Ashton 1. Maltby MW 0 Hallam 2; Ossett Albion 2 Hatfield Main 1; Pickering Town 2 Eccleshill Utd 3; Pontefract Cols 3 Liversedge 1; Selby Town 1 Glasshoughton Welfare 2; Sheffield 0 Ossett Town 1.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Continental Star 1 Coleshill 0; Cheslyn Hay 3 Dudley Sports 4; Handrahan Timbers 0 Studley BKL 1. Highgate 2 David Lloyd AFC 3. Presidents cup: Newhall 1 Northfield 1; Thimblemill Rec 1 Alveston 3

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 2 Long Buckby 4, Buckingham 1 St Neots 2, Desborough 1 Potton 1, Eynesbury 0 Cogenhoe 0; Kempston 0 S and L Corby 1; N Spencer 3 Holbeach 1, Wellingborough 1 Wootton 2. Yaxley 2 M Blackstone 4

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton 3 Diss 3. Fakenham 2 Halstead 3; Gorleston 0 Felixstowe Port and 2; Harwich and Parkeston 2 Bury Town 2; Newmarket 6 Watton 0; Stowmarket 0 Soham 3; Tiptree 2 Lowestoft 2; Warboys 0 Great Yarmouth 3.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures 1 Brockenhurst 3; BAT 1 Andover 5; Bemerton Heath Harl 1 Christchurch 1, East Cowes 2 Totton 0; Eastleigh 4 Romsey 0; Whitchurch 0 Portsmouth RN 5.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury Town 0 Swindon Supermarine 1; Burnham 1 Fairford Town 1; Hallen 1 Abingdon Utd 1, Harrow Hill 1 Highworth Town 1, Shortwood Utd 1 Endsleigh 10; Tuffley Rovers 10 Kintbury Rangers 0. First division: Bishops Cleeve 1 Purton 0; Letcombe 1 Cirencester Utd 3; Ross Town 3 Cheltenham Saracens 0; Yarnton 1 Pegasus Juniors 3.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division North: Bedford 1 Welwyn Garden 1, Biggleswade 0 London Colney 2; Hoddesdon 2 Letchworth 6; Langford 0 Harpenden 3; Royston 2 Milton Keynes 1. Premier division South: Barkingside 1 Ruislip Manor 0; Brimsdown 4 Islington 3; Cockfosters 3 St Margaretsbury 3; Harefield 1 Hanwell 0; Haringey Boro 0 Beaconsfield 1, Hillingdon Boro 2 Waltham Abbey 3. Senior division: Ampthill 1 Totternhoe 5; Caddington 5 Shillington 4; Leverstock Green 2 Kent 1. The 61 FC 0 Houghton 3; Tring 6 Stony Stratford 1; Winslow 1 Biggleswade 4. O'Brien Butchers: Premier division cup: Woodford 3 Toddington 0.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 0 RTM Newcastle 2, Consett 1 Shildon 2; Crook Town 0 South Shields 3; Jarrow Roofing 1 Easington CWM 2; Morpeth Town 6 Murton 0; Penrith 1 Durham City 0. Second division: Alnwick Town 2 Norton 2; Esh Winning 1 Chester Le Street 4; Evenwood Town 2 Willington 2. Hebburn 0 Ashington 3. Horden CW 7 Washington 1 Prudhoe Town 1 Peterlee 1, Shotton Comrades 1 Ryhope CA 1; Whickham 1 Eppleton CW 0

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Old Actonians 3 Lloyds Bank 1; South Bank Poly 1 Old Parmiterians 3; Cuaco 1 Winchmore Hill 1, Old Lyonians 2 Old Parkonians 2; Kew Association 4 Southgate Olympic 1; Brentham 1 Merton 0; Alleyn OB 3 Old Westminster Ctz. 2; Broomfield 1 Ibis 1

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: Hale End Ath 2 St Mary's Coll 1, HAC 2 Ulysses 0, Parkfield 2 Witan 2. Senior Two: Albanian 1 O Woodhouseians 4, Mill Hill Village 4 Hampstead Heathens 7; UCL Academicals 4 Wandsworth Bor 0. Westerns 0 Fulham Compton 2.

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Chelsea 0 Arsenal 2; Crystal Palace 0 Southampton 1, Derby 2 Nottm Forest 2. Leeds 3 Middlesbrough 3. Queens Park Rangers 2 West Ham 3. Sunderland 4 Barnsley 1, Tottenham Hotspur 1 Wimbledon 0

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: First division: Arsenal 4 Millwall 1. Charlton 1 Gillingham 2; Fulham 4 Tottenham Hotspur 3. Portsmouth 0 Leyton Orient 4, Southend 1 Crystal Palace 1; Watford 5 Queens Park Rangers 0; West Ham 2 Cambridge 0. Postponed: Norwich v Ipswich

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 0 Connah's Quay 1, Bangor City 2 Cwmbran 2; Barry 8 Welshpool 0; Caernarfon 2 Ebbw Vale 3. Carmarthen Town 2 Rhyl 2; Cemaes Ynys Mon 0 Inter Cable-Tel 3, Conwy 4 Rhayader Town 1, Flint Town 2 Caersws 0; Porthmadog 2 Haverfordwest 3; Total Network Solutions 2 Newtown 4.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 2 Keith 5; Clachnacuddin 4 Lossiemouth 0; Cove 5 Wick Academy 0; Deveronvale 1 Huntly 6. Nairn County 0 Rothes 2; Peterhead 2 Elgin 1. Postponed: Fort William v Forres Mechanics

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards 1 Linfield 5. Ballymena 4 Cliftonville 0; Glentoran 3 Coleraine 0; Omagh 2 Glenavon 1; Portadown 3 Crusaders 2. First division: Bangor 1 Dungannon Swifts 2, Carrick 0 Larne 1; Limavady 0 Distillery 5. Newry 3 Ballyclare 1.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	3	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
·	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	1	2	1	1	1

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is low, two score draws and 25 no-score draws. Full-time: no claims required — forecast is good, six score draws and six no-score draws.

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Man Utd	17	7	1	0	27	4	4	3	2	16	9	37	+30
2 Blackburn	18	6	2	1	20	10	4	4	1	13	8	36	+14
3 Chelsea	18	6	1	1	16	6	5	1	4	25	12	35	+23
4 Leeds	18	4	2	3	13	11	5	2	2	13	8	31	+7
5 Arsenal	18	5	2	2	19	7	3	4	2	13	14	30	+11
6 Liverpool	17	5	0	3	19	9	3	4	2	11	8	28	+13
7 Derby	17	6	2	0	19	5	2	1	6	14	22	27	+6
8 Leicester	18	3	5	2	12	9	4	1	3	11	8	27	+6
9 Newcastle	16	5	2	2	12	10	2	2	3	8	11	25	-1
10 West Ham	18	7	0	1	17	6	1	1	8	8	22	25	-3
11 Wimbledon	18	3	2	5	11	14	3	3	2	8	7	23	-2
12 A Villa	17	4	1	3	11	12	2	2	5	8	11	21	-4
13 Sheff Wed	18	5	1	3	17	13	1	2	6	13	26	21	-9
14 Coventry	18	3	6	1	14	10	1	2	5	3	14	20	-7
15 C Palace	18	0	3	5	5	14	5	2	3	12	11	20	-8
16 Bolton	18	3	5	1	8	6	1	3	5	8	21	20	-11
17 Southmptn	18	5	1	4	17	14	1	0	7	5	14	19	-6
18 Tottenham	18	3	2	4	8	14	1	2	6	6	18	16	-18
19 Everton	18	3	2	4	11	13	0	3	6	5	14	14	-11
20 Barnsley	18	2	2	5	10	20	2	0	7	7	27	14	-30

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Middlesbro	22	7	2	2	20	7	6	4	1	19	10	45	(39)
2 Nottm F	22	8	2	1	25	11	4	4	3	10	9	42	(35)
3 Sheff Utd	22	8	3	0	21	9	3	5	3	12	12	41	(33)
4 West Brom	22	8	1	2	13	6	4	3	4	12	13	40	(25)
5 Charlton	22	8	2	1	24	12	3	3	5	17	17	38	(41)
6 Swindon	22	8	2	1	22	9	3	2	6	9	21	37	(31)
7 Sunderland	21	5	4	2	17	8	5	2	3	15	13	36	(32)
8 Stockport	22	7	4	0	24	11	3	1	7	14	19	35	(38)
9 Wolvrhmptn	22	7	4	0	21	11	3	1	7	8	15	35	(29)
10 Bradford	22	6	4	2	13	11	2	5	3	9	10	33	(22)
11 Birmingham	22	5	3	3	12	7	3	4	4	11	11	31	(23)
12 Norwich	22	4	3	4	11	17	4	2	5	12	15	29	(23)
13 QPR	22	5	4	2	14	10	2	2	7	13	26	27	(27)
14 Port Vale	22	4	4	3	13	8	3	1	7	12	19	26	(25)
15 Stoke	22	4	2	4	13	12	3	3	6	11	18	26	(24)
16 Ipswich	21	4	3	3	13	11	1	6	4	11	13	24	(24)
17 Reading	22	4	2	5	16	18	2	4	5	5	17	24	(21)
18 Oxford Utd	22	5	3	3	15	11	1	2	8	12	22	23	(27)
19 Tranmere	21	5	2	3	18	12	1	2	8	10	20	22	(28)
20 Crewe	22	2	2	7	12	20	4	1	6	14	16	21	(26)
21 Man City	22	3	3	5	14	11	2	3	6	10	16	21	(24)
22 Bury	22	3	5	3	10	11	1	4	6	11	20	21	(21)
23 Portsmth	21	4	2	5	17	19	1	3	6	9	15	20	(26)
24 Huddersfld	22	3	3	5	11	15	2	2	7	11	22	20	(22)

SECOND DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Watford	22	8	2	1	20	9	7	3	1	17	6	50	(37)
2 Bristol City	22	9	1	1	22	8	5	3	3	17	10	46	(39)
3 Oldham	22	8	3	0	26	12	1	4	6	11	17	34	(37)
4 Chestrfld	22	6	4	1	14	8	2	6	3	8	9	34	(22)
5 York	22	8	0	3	18	10	1	6	4	9	14	33	(27)
6 Millwall	21	4	4	3	16	13	5	1	4	11	11	32	(27)
7 Northmptn	22	6	3	2	14	7	2	5	4	9	9	32	(23)
8 Preston	22	6	1	4	13	8	3	3	5	15	13	31	(28)
9 Grimsby	21	4	4	2	13	6	4	3	4	14	12	31	(27)
10 Bournemth	22	5	5	1	12	7	2	4	5	12	16	30	(24)
11 Blackpool	22	6	4	1	18	12	2	1	8	12	23	29	(30)
12 Wrexham	21	5	4	1	16	10	2	4	5	11	14	29	(27)
13 Walsall	21	6	4	1	16	7	2	1	7	8	18	29	(24)
14 Bristol R	22	4	1	6	14	19	3	6	2	13	14	28	(27)
15 Fulham	22	5	5	1	14	7	2	2	7	10	18	28	(24)
16 Gillingham	22	5	3	3	14	13	2	3	6	13	19	27	(27)
17 Wycombe	22	5	5	1	17	11	1	3	7	13	23	26	(30)
18 Wigan	21	5	3	2	21	16	2	1	8	9	17	25	(30)
19 Southend	22	5	4	2	12	11	2	0	9	11	28	25	(23)
20 Plymouth	22	4	4	3	19	14	1	5	5	8	15	24	(27)
21 Brentford	22	5	3	3	18	13	0	4	7	6	22	22	(24)
22 Luton	21	3	2	6	14	21	2	5	3	7	10	22	(21)
23 Burnley	22	3	6	2	13	12	1	2	8	10	21	20	(23)
24 Carlisle	22	3	2	6	9	17	2	2	7	17	24	19	(26)

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Notts Co	22	5	4	2	18	13	6	4	1	16	10	41	(34)
2 Lincoln	22	5	5	1	14	10	6	3	2	10	7	41	(24)
3 Peterboro	22	7	3	1	21	8	3	7	1	18	11	40	(39)
4 Barnet	22	6	3	3	20	12	4	2	4	14	17	35	(34)
5 Exeter	22	4	5	2	14	11	5	3	3	17	14	35	(31)
6 Scarboro	22	7	1	3	21	13	3	3	5	14	18	34	(35)
7 Chester	22	8	4	0	21	5	2	0	8	12	23	34	(33)
8 Torquay	22	6	2	2	18	11	3	5	4	14	19	34	(32)
9 Hartlpool	22	6	5	0	19	9	1	7	3	12	15	33	(31)
10 Scunthrpe	21	4	4	3	13	13	5	2	3	16	14	33	(29)
11 Rotherham	22	5	3	3	20	17	3	5	3	14	15	32	(34)
12 L Orient	22	5	3	3	12	9	3	4	4	11	11	31	(23)
13 Macclesfld	21	7	3	0	19	6	0	6	5	10	17	30	(29)
14 Cardiff	21	2	8	2	11	12	3	5	1	9	7	28	(20)
15 Cambs Utd	22	5	4	2	20	15	1	5	5	10	14	27	(30)
16 Colchester	21	5	3	2	16	11	2	3	6	14	20	27	(30)
17 Shrwsbury	21	6	0	5	17	15	1	5	4	15	17	26	(32)
18 Rochdale	22	7	1	3	19	6	1	1	9	8	20	26	(27)
19 Mansfield	22	4	5	2	20	15	2	2	7	7	12	25	(27)
20 Hull	22	5	3	3	23	19	1	1	9	8	21	22	(31)
21 Swansea	22	3	3	4	8	8	3	0	9	14	27	21	(22)
22 Darlington	21	4	5	1	17	11	0	3	8	7	21	20	(24)
23 Brighton	22	1	3	7	7	16	2	4	5	9	14	16	(16)
24 Doncaster	22	1	3	6	7	23	0	3	9	9	31	9	(16)

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Hearts	17	7	0	1	21	9	5	1	3	16	9	37	+19
2 Rangers	17	7	2	0	29	10	3	4	1	13	8	36	+24
3 Celtic	17	5	1	2	15	5	6	1	2	14	7	35	+17
4 Dundee Utd	17	3	3	2	14	6	2	3	4	13	19	21	+2
5 Dunfrine	17	2	5	2	11	13	3	1	4	10	19	21	-11
6 St Johnstn	17	3	2	4	9	13	2	3	3	9	11	20	-6
7 Kilmarnck	17	3	1	4	7	13	2	3	4	9	20	19	-17
8 Motherwll	17	1	2	5	7	13	3	2	4	14	16	16	-8
9 Hibernian	17	3	3	3	19	15	0	2	6	4	12	14	-4
10 Aberdeen	17	1	4	4	8	14	1	3	4	9	19	13	-16

FIRST DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Dundee	17	4	3	2	11	5	6	2	0	15	3	35	+18
2 Raith	17	4	2	2	9	4	4	2	3	13	11	28	+7
3 Hamilton	16	4	2	2	10	10	4	2	2	15	9	28	+6
4 Falkirk	17	4	1	3	11	11	4	2	3	14	16	27	-2
5 Airdrie	16	3	5	1	11	9	2	3	2	6	10	23	-2
6 St Mirren	17	4	2	2	12	10	2	2	5	9	14	22	-3
7 Ayr	17	3	1	5	15	13	2	3	3	7	10	19	-1
8 G Morton	17	2	2	4	9	13	3	2	4	11	11	19	-4
9 Stirling	17	1	5	3	10	13	1	2	5	9	15	13	-9
10 Partick	17	1	2	5	13	20	1	5	3	9	12	13	-10

SECOND DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Livingston	16	6	1	0	16	7	2	5	2	11	10	30	+10
2 Clydebank	16	3	5	1	14	7	4	3	0	11	6	29	+12
3 Stranraer	16	5	3	0	18	8	0	4	4	8	15	22	+3
4 East Fife	16	3	1	4	16	19	3	2	3	7	9	21	-5
5 Clyde	15	4	1	2	12	7	1	4	3	10	14	20	+1
6 Queen Of S	15	4	2	1	11	8	2	0	6	13	18	20	-2
7 Forfar	16	2	3	4	15	20	3	2	2	13	11	20	-3
8 Stenhsmuir	16	4	3	2	15	13	1	1	5	7	14	19	-5
9 Inverness CT	16	2	4	2	10	8	1	2	5	16	17	15	+1
10 Brechin	16	2	3	2	8	10	1	3	5	11	21	15	-12

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Arbroath	17	6	1	2	22	11	5	1	2	16	9	35	+18
2 Ross Co	17	5	1	3	26	13	4	3	1	15	10	31	+18
3 East Stirling	17	7	0	2	21	8	3	1	4	8	14	31	+7
4 Alloa	16	4	0	3	17	9	6	0	3	17	11	30	+14
5 Albion	16	5	1	1	13	5	2	2	5	12	22	24	-2
6 Queen's Pk	17	4	2	3	15	11	2	3	3	7	8	23	+3
7 Berwick	16	3	2	4	14	16	2	1	4	8	14	18	-8
8 Dumbarton	16	0	4	3	7	12	4	1	4	18	19	17	-6
9 Montrose	16	1	2	5	10	16	2	2	4	11	25	13	-20
10 Cowdnbth	16	2	1	5	5	15	1	0	7	4	18	10	-24

هكذا من الإمل

FOOTBALL: VICTORY BREATHES LIFE INTO PROMOTION CAMPAIGN IN NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Forest fail to keep Wolves at bay

Wolverhampton W 2
Nottingham Forest 1

By Richard Hobson

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Freedman celebrates his opening goal as Wolverhampton Wanderers take an early grip on their first division match at Molineux yesterday

SOME weeks ago, Steve Stone described the Nationwide League first division, rather generously, as being "not very good". The Nottingham Forest midfield player was an absentee yesterday, but his words sprang to mind all too readily. It was entirely appropriate that the goal to confirm victory for Wolverhampton Wanderers should arrive courtesy of a miskick.

How they required this win, though. Defeat would have left them 13 points behind Forest, who remain in second place behind Middlesbrough and just a point clear of Sheffield United, who are third. Wolverhampton expect Richards and Bull to recover from injury within a month, while the poor home form that has hampered their attempts to win promotion in the past has been rectified so spectacularly that they are yet to suffer defeat at Molineux in the league this season.

Mark McGhee, the manager, seemed strangely subdued as he discussed Wolverhampton's credentials yesterday. "We have also beaten Middlesbrough this season, so knowing we can do that to the top two in the table has to give us confidence," he said. "But I am still in a situation where I do not know what side I will be able to put out from one week to the next because of injuries, so I cannot get too excited."

For the first 20 minutes yesterday, they were barely allowed out of their own half and both Cooper and Van Hooijdonk threatened with long-range shots. Perhaps that early pressure tempted the Forest defence to push too far forward. They were caught square by a long pass from Atkins to Goodman, whose centre from the right went across goal to Froggatt. It was cut back for a second time and, on this occasion, Freedman made a good enough contact to steer it beyond the reach of Pascolo.

Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, might have considered a bid for Freedman when the player left Crystal Palace in October had the City Ground finances not been so constrained. Bassett's admiration could only have grown when Freedman chipped against the bar in the 23rd minute.

When Chettle held him back 12 minutes later, an offence somehow missed by the referee, the effect was to rouse the Wolverhampton crowd. Confidence spread among the baying ranks as Forest failed to make any impact on Stowell's goal and Keane, a precocious young talent from Ireland, started to torment Rogers, the left back.

A blatant handball by Bonalair inside his own penalty area went unpunished when the second-half began, while a back pass from Armstrong, an early substitute for Hjelde, was oddly deemed unintentional. Forest rallied midway through the half when Woan shot wide and both Campbell and Van Hooijdonk drew good saves from Stowell.

Wolverhampton needed a second goal and it duly arrived, fortuitously, in the 66th minute. Froggatt, a left back with an inclination to attack, reached the byline before passing back to Simpson. The ball was whipped in and Robinson, shooting a fraction early, screwed it the wrong side of Pascolo from close range.

Woan failed to even hit the target with a free header immediately afterwards and Forest could ill afford to finish so wastefully. At least Van Hooijdonk forced Stowell to tip a free kick over the bar, as befits a man with 17 goals to his credit this season.

The visiting team scored with five minutes remaining to ensure a frantic ending. Coooper's long, floated ball was flicked on by Campbell and, while Froggatt and Stowell dithered, Johnson, a substitute, nipped in to score.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-3-3): M Stowell — M Atkins, K Curle, S Sedgley, S Froggatt — C Robinson, S Osborn, P Simpson — R Keane, D Freedman (sub: D Ferguson, 77min), D Goodman.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Pascolo — D Lyttle (sub: I Moore, 88), J Hjelde (sub: C Armstrong, 12), S Chettle, A Rogers (sub: A Johnson, 77) — T Bonalair, C Cooper, S Gemmill, I Woan — P van Hooijdonk, K Campbell.
Referee: M Bailey

Borbokis shows Sheffield he is a man of steel

Sheffield United 2
Swindon Town 1

By Pat Gibson

THE Greeks, no doubt, have a better word for it, but, in football parlance, such overused clichés as character and commitment will have to suffice to describe the kind of quality Vassilis Borbokis demonstrated at Bramall Lane on Saturday.

The Sheffield United full back was in tears before the game because he had just heard that his father was desperately ill at home in Athens, but when Nigel Spackman, his manager, asked him whether he wanted to play or not, he was adamant.

"He said, 'Yes, I want to play, I want to play'," Spackman reported, so I said, 'OK, you play and then go home to Greece and ring us when you are ready to come back'."

For the next 90 minutes, Borbokis, who was signed from AEK Athens, put personal distress out of his mind and emerged as the outstanding figure in a victory that lifted United back to third place in the Nationwide League first division.

"It just shows the great character of the player that he could perform like he did today with his father so ill," Spackman said. "Now everybody should appreciate that family problems like illness come before football. This is the way it is being handled with Vas as it would be with every other player here and the most important thing now is for him to be with his father."

Spackman will be hoping that Borbokis is not away too long. He has only just got his side back on an even keel after successive defeats at Norwich City and Charlton Athletic had threatened to undermine an excellent start, in which they lost only one of their 19 matches.

They played some good football on Saturday, with Marker operating just in front of the back four and Saunders behind the two strikers in a diamond midfield formation, but they found Digby, Sheffield-born and once a Bramall Lane ball-boy, in outstanding form in the Swindon Town goal and it was the visitors who went ahead in the 23rd minute.

"Frightening," is the word Steve McMahon, the Swindon manager, uses to describe the searing pace of Ndah, his exciting capture from Crystal Palace, and it certainly frightened Vonk, whose hesitancy allowed Finney to score from an acute angle.

Borbokis set up the equaliser on the stroke of half-time, first with a shot that drew a fine save at his near post by Digby, then with the ensuing corner that forced Digby into his only error and led to Holdsworth scoring from close range.

Swindon, busy and workmanlike, seemed to have regained the lead in the 61st minute when Gooden scrambled the ball in from Robinson's cross, but the goal was disallowed because Ndah was offside. "It was ludicrous," McMahon said. "The ball was already over the line and all Ndah was doing was celebrating by kicking it into the net."

As McMahon said, it was the turning-point. Twenty minutes later, Saunders, signed on a free transfer from Nottingham Forest but reportedly earning £10,000 a week, repaid some of the investment by scoring his first goal for United, although he needed a deflection off Bullock to beat the gallant Digby after Fjortoft had put him clear.

"I'm relieved to get off the mark for Sheffield United," the Wales forward said. "Hopefully I can now get on a run."

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-1-2-1-2): A Kelly — V Borbokis, D Holdsworth, M Vonk, R Nilsen — N Marker — G Stuart (sub: C Woodhouse, 81min), B Ford — D Saunders — J A Fjortoft (sub: G Taylor, 81), B Deane.
SWINDON TOWN (3-4-1-2): F Digby — M Robinson, B Borrows, A McDonald — F Darras (sub: C Taylor, 45), D Bullock, L Collins, T Gooden — D Thompson — G Ndah, S Finney.
Referee: T Jones.

Gamble pays off for Taylor at last

Watford 1
Bristol City 1

By Keith Pike

IT WAS a moment so powerfully evocative, so rich in irony, that there was a temptation to believe that it had been stage-managed. With nine minutes to go, his side trailing and desperate for the goal that seemed beyond them, Graham Taylor did it again — he took off his leading scorer. It only needed Alan Smith, an impassive observer in the Vicarage Road press box on Saturday, to have laced up his boots and taken the field for the scene to have been complete.

This, though, was not Sweden and the 1992 European championship, and it was not Gary Lineker trudging to the sidelines, England's hopes departing with him. This was the meeting of the teams running away with the Nationwide League second division. And this time, Taylor got it right.

Within three minutes, Ronny Rosenthal's replacement, Gifton Noel-Williams — a gangling 17-year-old with legs as long as his name — had controlled Jason Lee's hopeful pass across the area, made a yard of space and hit a low, left-foot shot that, with the aid of a small deflection, beat Welch inside his near post. Watford had got the point they deserved and Taylor had been vindicated — this time.

"When he comes in and tells you how good his substitution was, ask him why he didn't do it earlier," John Ward said. "I would have done." The Bristol City manager, Taylor's closest friend in football and his weekend house guest, had his tongue very firmly in his cheek, but having shared in so many of Taylor's achievements during an alliance that started a quarter of a century ago, Ward knows that the man who will inevitably be remembered simply as the England coach who failed also just happens to have been one of the most successful club managers of the past 20 years.

Ward spoke of his "great affection" for his mentor and his pride in what they had achieved during Watford's heady run through the divisions and on to Wembley in the late Seventies and early Eighties. The debt of the club and the community to Taylor was immense and lasting. "We went on an adventure and Graham showed that it is possible to make a football club very important to a lot of people," Ward said. "It is not just a team; it is a club and it is about caring for it. Graham and I both want to be successful, but if I can't do it I really hope they do here, because this is a lovely club with a very good manager."

Success for both seems guaranteed come May. Beaten only twice in the league, powerful and wholly committed, Watford, the leaders, possess few frills but are on course to become only the third side to plunder 100 points in a season. City, despite having failed to make it nine successive league victories, are now 12 points clear of Oldham Athletic in third place. Their rivals, surely, are already merely jostling for play-off places.

Matching Watford tackle for tackle and displaying commendable discipline, City looked the better balanced, better passing team and, perhaps, are a slightly better bet for the title. Their goal, superbly finished by Shaun Goater in the 52nd minute after Cramb's clever touch and Page's momentary hesitation had put the transfer-listed Bermudian clear, looked likely to be decisive, but a draw was eminently fair and satisfied both camps. That the Football League is even considering tagging penalty shoot-outs onto the end of such contests is scandalous.

WATFORD (4-4-2): A Chamberlain — N Gibbs, R Page, K Millen, S Palmer — R Rosenthal (sub: G Noel-Williams, 81min), M Hyde, R Johnson, P Kennedy — J Lee, T Mooney.
BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): K Welch — A Locke, L Carey, S Taylor, M Bell — G Goodridge, T Doherty, R Edwards, B Tinnion — C Cramb (sub: S Dyche, 90), S Goater.
Referee: N Knight

Beck working his magic

Lincoln City 1
Hartlepool United 1

By Bill Edgar

THE mad professor is at it again, bringing to life a corpse of a team by injecting it with his own unique characteristics and causing mayhem along the way. Three weeks ago the cry of "Eureka" could be heard as Lincoln City, through the unorthodox management of John Beck, went top of the Nationwide League third division for the first time in eight years.

This draw with Hartlepool United may have knocked them off their perch, but Lincoln remain unrecognisable from the club that lay bottom of the table when Beck arrived two years ago.

Just ask their opponents. Shrewsbury Town complained that their dressing-room heating was turned up high when they visited Sincil Bank during a heatwave in August and that there was no hot water available for showering.

Neil Howarth, the Macclesfield Town defender, claimed his team's half-time team talk was ruined by a nearby ghetto-blaster and that Beck urged ball boys to muddy the ball before Macclesfield throw-ins. Visiting teams, apparently, have often arrived to find their changing-rooms soaked with water.

Beck is also happy to inflict hardship on his own sides. He has continued to throw "wake up" buckets of cold water over his Lincoln players after long journeys before matches as he did when managing Cambridge United. The manager himself watched the Hartlepool game in a pair of shorts in freezing conditions.

Beck: tactics causing mayhem

Lincoln's long-ball game resembles the early 1990s class at Cambridge, whose rise from the old fourth division to the brink of the Premier League in just over two years under Beck was as direct as their style of play. Their only goal came, predictably, from a set-piece, Hone's fourteenth-minute free kick deflecting into the net off the arm of Jon Cullen, the Hartlepool midfield player.

But Cullan made amends by equalising two minutes into injury time after a brilliant run. Afterwards, he said: "The heating was all right in the dressing-room but we didn't try the tea just in case."

LINCOLN CITY (3-5-2): J Vaughan — J Barnett, D Walling, K Austin — P Smith (sub: S Brown, 71min), M Hone, S Holmes, T Fleming, J Whitney — G Gordon (sub: C Alcide, 82), L Thorpe.
HARTLEPOOL UNITED (3-5-2): M Hollund — M Barron, G Lee, R Bradley — D Knowles, C Beech, J Cullen, J Pederson, R Lucas — S Howard, S Halliday
Referee: S Matheson.

Camberley suffering cup overload

Camberley Town........................3
Sudbury Wanderers.....................3
(after extra time)

By Walter Gammie

CAMBERLEY Town will travel to Sudbury for their nineteenth cup-tie of the season on Tuesday, the replay of a rousing FA Carlsberg Vase third-round contest at Krooner Park on Saturday.

It was a match that the Ryman League third division side had seemingly won when they went 2-0 up after 65 minutes. Instead, they had to salvage it. An injury-time header by Jason Heath forced extra time after their Jewson Eastern Counties League opponents had roared back to lead 3-2.

Danny McGranaghan, the Camberley manager, said: "After we went 2-0 up I was trying to bring on a fourth defender to make us more secure at the back and they scored twice in a minute before I could bring him on."

The muddling in defence that enabled Smiles and Devereux to bring Sudbury level proved McGranaghan's instincts right. It was small consolation, especially when a second sweet left-footed strike by Devereux put Wanderers ahead with eight minutes left.

The last-gasp rescue act was deserved on the balance of a match in which Camberley had much the better chances in the first half as they exploited a Sudbury defence shorn of its regular central defenders by injury.

All Camberley had to show for it was a goal by Tim Sills, putting away a cross-shot by Todd from Lloyd's centre. The second goal that had seemed to make the tie safe was a lucky rebound off Harkness's knees as Howe cleared.

A manager without any wages to dispense, McGranaghan relies on finding youngsters. He was delighted for Sills, 17, in form and under scrutiny, and Harkness, 18, temporarily out of touch and in particular need of a goal.

"We are a stepping-stone," McGranaghan said, seeing little prospect of the Surrey town awakening to the lively football club in its midst. His hope is to keep his side together long enough to gain promotion, but it is a prospect that looks scuppered by cup overload.

CAMBERLEY TOWN (3-4-3): J Gray — S Garrood, P Tippins, P Macson — R Todd, J Heath, P Xiberras, S Lloyd — I Jopling, T Sills, P Harkness (sub: S Woods, 71min)
SUDBURY WANDERERS (4-4-2): J Haygreen — J Howe, R Cornish, R Sims, M Stratton — G Bach, A Gardiner, A Owers, S Day (sub: B Roberts, 64; sub: M Cutmore, 116) — B Devereux, A Smiles.
Referee: L Smith

Celtic victory plan is pure theatre

By Kevin McCarra

THE drama of football has no room for oblique dialogue and ambiguous gestures. At a theatre such as Celtic Park, with its 50,000 crowd, only ham acting can be recognised in the back row. Showmanship is needed to stir the audience and when provided the consequences for a match can be spectacular, as Heart of Midlothian found in losing 1-0 on Saturday.

With a half-hour remaining and the game goalless, Celtic brought on Harald Brattbakk, their new signing, for his debut. Quick and eager to get the ball on target, the forward earned approval, but the intensity of the supporters' reaction depended less on his display than their own highly charged imagination.

Any little-known addition to a team brings with him the promise of transformation and fulfilment. People have persuaded themselves that Brattbakk is the catalyst to turn Celtic into champions of the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

The Norwegian may prove to be an able tradesman rather than a virtuoso, but his mere arrival changed the mood of the match. The stands were enlivened, the energy of the Celtic players began to climb and the sustained effort brought a goal, when Craig Burley chested down Henrik Larsson's cross in the eightieth minute and sent a shot skipping into the net.

Brattbakk's introduction had been a precious piece of melodrama. Given that he cost £2.2 million from Rosenborg Trondheim, it was the sort of *coup de théâtre* that Celtic, for all their means, will not be able to repeat regularly. Nonetheless, the event was a reminder that any club wishing to capture the title must first capture the imagination.

Conviction only grows when players and fans are genuinely able to envisage success. So far this season, the contenders for the title have found confidence a slippery commodity. Although they remain at the top of the table, Hearts have dropped five points, and failed to score a goal, in their past two matches.

Rangers, too, cannot find their best form. With Brian Laudrup and Paul Gascoigne unavailable, they drew 0-0 with Dunfermline Athletic at East End Park and took small consolation in closing the gap on Hearts to a single point. Celtic, two points off the lead, remain enigmatic.

Having overwhelmed Dundee United 3-0 to take the Coca-Cola Cup, they failed even to flirt with a goal in a scoreless match with Kilmarnock six days later. It is probably a question of chronology, as frustrated supporters measure out the years since Celtic last won the premier division championship, in 1988, but those long, bitter seasons do not have relevance for the man responsible for the team's future.

Wim Jansen, the head coach, has been with Celtic for only five months and his side is still in the development stage. The first phase of the project appears complete, as Celtic now have a defensive record in league football bettered only by Dundee in the whole of Britain. Jansen must go on to add the dynamism.

Last season, his club sought the answer in panache. These days, Paulo di Canio is reviled by fans who resent the ignoble episode in which he moved to Sheffield Wednesday, and Jansen is more concerned with cohesion, seeking success from the interplay of talents. On Saturday, the head coach placed three men in central midfield and Burley, knowing that a pair of colleagues would stay behind to mind the shop, was free to race forward into attack whenever he chose. Brattbakk got the raucous acclaim, but Jansen's tactics merited a round of applause.

Ilkeston tickets go in a hurry

ILKESTON TOWN sold their 1,650 tickets for the FA Cup second-round replay with Scunthorpe United in four hours yesterday.

Police gave permission for the match on Wednesday to be played at the New Manor Ground despite violence in the first match, when CS gas was used for the first time in a football ground in Britain.

The Dr Martens League midland division club decided not to switch the match to a Football League ground where the attendance could have reached 10,000. "We feel our best chance is for Scunthorpe to play in unfamiliar surroundings," Keith Alexander, the manager, said.

Roy Smith, a club director, said: "We could have sold thousands more. I don't like having to tell genuine fans they can't have a ticket."

Ground capacity was set at 2,350 by police and safety officials. The record gate was 2,504 when Ilkeston beat Boston United, of the UniBond League premier division, in the first round.

It is the only time in 107 years that the Derbyshire club has appeared in the second round. The winners of the replay will travel to play Crystal Palace, of the FA Carling Premiership.

Scunthorpe, the Nationwide League third division club, expect to sell their allocation of 700 tickets.

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CORRECT SCORE

MAN. UTD.	SCORE TO BE	A. VILLA
7/1	1-0	12/1
13/2	2-0	33/1
8/1	2-1	25/1
9/1	3-0	100/1
9/1	3-1	100/1
28/1	3-2	50/1
10/1	0-0	10/1
13/2	1-1	13/2
14/1	2-2	14/1

Other scores on request

DOUBLE RESULT

H/TIME	F/TIME	
MAN. UTD.	MAN. UTD.	Evs.
MAN. UTD.	DRAW	14/1
MAN. UTD.	A. VILLA	50/1
DRAW	MAN. UTD.	4/1
DRAW	DRAW	5/1
DRAW	A. VILLA	16/1
A. VILLA	MAN. UTD.	25/1
A. VILLA	DRAW	14/1
A. VILLA	A. VILLA	14/1

Bets void if match not completed.

FIRST GOALSCORER

10/3	COLE (M)
4/1	SHERINGHAM (M)
8/1	BECKHAM (M)
8/1	YORKE (A)
10/1	COLLYMORE (A)
11/1	MILOSEVIC (A)
14/1	BUTT (M)
28/1	EHIOGU (A)
10/1	NO GOALSCORER

Other players on request. Own goals are void.

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Tea-time favourite back on upward gradient

MEL WEBB

◆

TV ACTION REPLAY

There is, hidden away in the psyche of human kind and yet never far from its surface, a powerful streak of sado-masochism, and in few mediums of public entertainment is this more manifest than in televised sport and what sometimes passes for it.

Example: the Japanese sublimate their evident pleasure in seeing ordinary folk suffer by watching programmes such as the bizarre *Endurance*, which calls for contestants to engage in such sick making activities as plunging their heads into transparent vats full of small, white, damp wriggly things; such fun. One could get quite worried about the Japanese.

Example: the Spanish love their bull fighting, where the poor old bull nearly always cops it but, just sometimes, does not go to that great abattoir in the sky without sticking one of its horns through a soft and yielding part of a matador. The French, on the other hand, do not need such blood-soaked shenanigans. They've got Sacha Distel and that's quite enough punishment for anybody.

So where do the British go for the vicarious thrill of watching sportspeople having Come Uppance visited upon them? They turn first to the obvious — boxing, rugby — then to steeplechasing, motor racing, three-day eventing and the like, and finally to such profoundly winter sports as ice skating and skiing.

As in pretty much any sporting endeavour, when taken to its logical extreme there is something deliciously daft about skiing. Think of it for a moment. Is there any sensible reason why civilised people could wish in the name of sport to voluntarily hurtle down vertiginous slopes covered in snow with their feet attached to a couple of planks. One does not doubt for a nano second that skiing is a splendid social past-time, if only for the fact that no activity where the consumption of vast amounts of food and a Kummel induced haze by 10pm is part of its fabric can be all bad. But is it sport? Frankly, who cares?

Ski Sunday, which started its new season on BBC2 yesterday, has long been a reliable workhorse of the corporation's winter sport schedules. People who would not be seen within a 100 miles of Garmisch or Kitzbühel have for years switched on at about "crumpets and tea" time on a Sunday afternoon to watch a succession of highly tuned athletes clad in padded jumpsuits in unfortunate colours hurl down the piste. Quite honestly, when you've seen one Super G you've seen them all; it would very quickly become acutely boring if it were not for the crashes because they do crash and when they do, well what could possibly be better than the satisfying feeling of *schadenfreude* induced by witnessing skiers who should do better go base over Tomba and vanish into a snow drift in a welter of entangled limbs and skis?

And then there are the spectators: they are wonderful. Spectators at skiing ring bells and loose volleys of hoarse whoops which make them sound like a bunch of turkey cocks on experience-enhancing chemicals, or perhaps the assembled gathering at a random sitting at the House of Commons.

For years *Ski Sunday* was presided over by David Vine, the only man with the possible exceptions of the incomparable Desmond Lyman and that old smoothy Steve Rider who could appear halfway up a ski slope in a purple, crimson and turquoise anorak and still be nattily dressed.

Vine knew his stuff, or if he did not, he did some pretty heavy duty research. But as the years went by the cold finally got into the bones of Vine, and now he has done the sensible thing and retired back to the sanctuary of the studio and the more peaceful click of snooker balls, to be replaced by Hazel Irvine.

Irvine, one of an increasing number of highly proficient female television sport presenters, climbed into her polychrome Parka for her debut yesterday, and a smooth and professional job she made of it in a new-look programme. Mind you, her load was lightened by having the support of the imperturbable Julian Tutt.

Tutt is equally at home commenting on grand state occasions or, as here, the men's World Cup downhill from Beaver Creek in the United States followed by the giant slalom by Val d'Isère. Tutt was also seen sitting in a Formula One Jordan in an item which put British skiers, Andrew Freshwater and Graham Bell, in a wind tunnel. Irvine did a feature on Picabo Street, one of the best women alpinists. With the Winter Olympics only a couple of months away, this was a promising start for an old favourite. And yes, there was one splendid crash; thank you, Cary Mullen, of Canada, it was a classic of its kind. But did it do anything to make one want to climb up a mountain to spectate in person? Not really — given the choice, Crumpet-butter down the chin still beats snow down the neck any day.

Dramatic irony is lost on Sheffield Wednesday's singing supporters as fate deals a hammer blow

Lesson in leaving nothing to chants

LYNNE TRUSS

I'll tell you what Sheffield Wednesday supporters could do to make me happy. They could curb this reckless practice of singing "You'll never beat Des Walker". On Saturday afternoon at Upton Park, Wednesday held out against West Ham United's attack right up until the 68th minute. They scrapped; they rallied; they kicked.

Petter Rudi shuttled manfully athwart the midfield; Paulo Di Canio doodled with pointless flashery in the margins and, best of all, Kevin Pressman, the goalkeeper, dived, punched, headed and generally gave the rather magnificent impression that bullets would bounce off his brave chest. True, the team performance had the desperate, improvised air of someone patching a roof with newspaper, but it was OK. All seemed set for a 0-0 draw, until . . . Oh, God. "You'll never beat Des Walker" — that's what.

Trained in the rules of dramatic irony from earliest youth, I just cannot stand this fate-tempting bravado. Why can't they be satisfied with "You *didn't* beat Des Walker"? That's all they mean, after all. Have they really never watched celluloid cowboys riding out of town, promising to be back Tuesday sundown — as I did, every Sunday afternoon of my childhood?

"I ain't niver gonna let yew go, darlin' Clem!" a youth in chaps calls as he gathers his reins. "I'm gonna git yew the finest ribbons in Laramie for yer purty hair!" At which, my mum would speak for all of us — "That's him for the chop, then" — and we would wait the requisite 2½ seconds for the ululations of ambush and, soon after, the close-up of the dead man's hand releasing Clem's Laramie ribbons into the swirling dust.

This is such a strange time for Wednesday, though, that I suppose you can understand a bit of emotional confusion. Perhaps dramatic irony has stopped being simple. I mean, people have been calling the recent Ron Atkinson period a "honeymoon" — and, in some ways, it might be worth dropping a match or two, just to dispel a mental suggestion as grisly as that of Ron and the team with a champagne bucket and a "Do Not Disturb" sign swinging permanently on the door.

Wednesday players have been displaying loads of preternatural pluck in their past four games to make a good impression on the boss. But it had to end somewhere, and in a way it is a relief. So why *not* invoke the gods by singing "You'll never beat Des Walker"? After all, it's guaranteed foolproof. Cue mounted Indians silhouetted on the horizon and Paul Kitson taking a 20-yard shot that deflects off Newsome and curls into the net to win the match 1-0.

The great thing about football, of course, is that the same score can mean so many different things. Take 0-0. At the euphoric end of the scale, the goalless draw can mean the ultimate glory of Italy v England in Rome. This scoreline can also provide — as it did on the first occasion that I saw Wednesday v West Ham in the most lacklustre of matches at Hillsborough — a quite persuasive argument for justifiable suicide.

On Saturday, there was a third type of goalless draw on offer — neither a beautiful feat of containment nor an ugly, boring mud-struggle, but something in between. Here was a scrappy, energetic containment of a West Ham side that last year won this fixture 5-1. And it was not without interest for a single moment.

But is Di Canio a brilliant player, as advertised? In Scotland, they named him Player of the Year, thus placing him above Brian Laudrup — quite an accolade. He came with a high price tag and, somewhere in his career, he evidently won the right to wear fancy boots and short shorts and to look like Will Self without anybody mentioning it.

But I don't like him. I have to say, I just don't. Having displaced Benito Carbone as Wednesday's resident overt Latin (Carbone has shaved all his hair off, so as not to compete), Di Canio obviously has moments of flair — as in the match against Barnsley last Monday. But the tightness of his shorts affects his temper and, personally, I can't stand the way that he diddles back and forth with the ball when cornered.

"I'm going this way — fooled you, no I'm not, look at me." Di Canio's strength of knee and thigh evidently lets him keep changing direction, turning on sixpences, feigning, doubling back, swivelling. This sort of footwork is, of course, impressive, but it gets tiresome very quickly. "This way I go! But I change my mind! Look at this control! Ha, ha — see! All are looking at me, yet I go absolutely nowhere and achieve nothing!"

As my impatience mounts with Di Canio's twinkle-toes, I remember how Indiana Jones shot that big Arab with the flashy scimitar-tricks in the market. Oh for heaven's sake, Di Canio, pass the ball or get off the pitch. (Bang!)

What Big Ron sees when he looks at the squad is hard to guess, except that he doesn't seem to see Patrick Blondeau, the former AS Monaco defender, at all. Can Blondeau still be injured? Or does Ron always leave him out? You can imagine him looking at Blondeau after the team selection for each game with the same shifty "How did that happen?" expression as a car mechanic with a pile of left-over nuts and bolts.

What must certainly be visible to him, however, is that just as Di Canio is masterly at reducing the available space around himself, Rudi somehow contrives the opposite condition — to run wild and free. And of course he sees — as who does not? — that after several weeks of appalling defeats, Pressman's commitment to goal-defence is now so impassioned that it is clearly bordering on the psychotic.

Whether to laugh or cry was the quandary afterwards. Last season, the same fixture was humiliating. David Hirst was sent off, if memory serves, and West Ham were near the bottom of the league and having language problems with their foreign players. Saturday was, therefore, a great improvement as far as Wednesday were concerned — except for the obvious objection that the points ended up divided in precisely the same manner as before.

One day Walker will stop in his tracks and say to the crowd: "Don't sing that never-beat-Des-Walker thing any more! It makes me nervous, OK?" But, until that day, the rest of us can only hope that the fans see a lot more cowboy films on the telly and learn the lessons, therein.

Di Canio, left, shows some of the fancy footwork and twisting turns that can be impressive, but soon grow very tiresome. Photograph: Ben Radford/Allsport

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SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Importance of Maktoums

From Mr Steve Miller

Sir, The inevitable has arrived in the shape of Sheikh Mohammed's addresss to the Gimcrack dinner at York (report, December 10). His speech was both exhilarating and fearful.

It was exhilarating, in that the Sheikh eloquently crystalised the position of all owners of thoroughbred racehorses in this country, large and small, something which the British Horseracing Board under the leadership of Lord Wakeham has failed to achieve. It was fearful, in that the withdrawal of patronage (this is not too strong a word) of the Maktoum family would leave racing in this country, which is still the envy of the world, in a near terminal state.

Following the dramatic scaling down of other racing empires in this country, such as that of Robert Sangster, the stark fact of the matter is that the Maktoum family not only underpins but virtually carries the racing industry in this country squarely on its shoulders. The quality and variety of thoroughbred racing in Britain is due not to the Queen, nor the Government, but to the Maktoum family.

In my own modest capacity as a racehorse owner, I have received a return on my investment of less than ten per cent from four thoroughbreds, two of which have won races in the past three seasons. While I did not enter into racehouse ownership with the expectation of making money, by anyone's standards this is a woefully small return, for what must be considered at least modestly successful horses.

Sheikh Mohammed and his brothers have shown admirable restraint over the past 20 years. His speech has been a long time coming and he is not a man to make idle threats. If they are ignored, the consequences will shake the racing industry in this country to its foundations. It remains to be seen if these foundations are in a fit state to be built up if the Maktoums decide to abandon us to our own devices.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE MILLER,
32 St Andrew's Road,
Enfield, Middlesex.

From Mr Clive Rodley

Sir, Despite Lord Rothschild's comments in the 1978 Royal Commission on Gambling, and the general tone of the Home Affairs Select Committee Report in 1991, racing remains hooked on subsidy.

The Horserace Betting Levy stimulates an oversupply of fixtures which dilutes horseracing's appeal. Too many bad meetings are staged simply to maximise the Levy and to gratify bookmakers. The result is low attendances and poor racing.

Though operating like a Soviet-style command economy, racing's *nomenclatura* largely comprises high Tory disciples of market forces — people who oppose subvention for others. This hypocrisy is compounded by social injustice: Levy funds flow upwards, from the betting shop classes to rich owners and trainers. Reform will never come from within, where all the power brokers are beneficiaries. Only Government can make a difference. If racing were denied the Levy it would be forced into creating a more efficient and attractive spectator sport. Those of us who love the game but despair of its governance will be grateful.

The Conservatives yielded to special pleading and thus nurtured a fat, spoilt racing "industry". What irony if it were a Labour Government that took racing from perpetual, subsidised, bleating tickover to dynamic, market-led self-sufficiency. All they have to do is scrap the Levy.

Yours sincerely,
CLIVE RODLEY,
16 Milton Avenue,
Eaton Ford,
St Neots, Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire.
cliverodley@intecc.co.uk

New Zealand observes qualification rules

From Mr Keith Quinn

Sir, Tom Williamson (Sports Letters, December 8) objects to the process of qualification for the All Blacks rugby team, questioning the right of Jonah Lomu, Frank Bunce and others to play for New Zealand because of their Tongan and Samoan descent.

Both players he mentions were born in New Zealand, so there must surely be no objection to them playing for the All Blacks. The two have lived all of their lives in New Zealand.

Using Mr Williamson's logic he must also question the right of Adedayo Adebayo, Steve Ojomoh and Victor Ubogu (all born in Nigeria) playing for England. How about Tony Underwood (born in Malaysia) and many other England players of the past born offshore? Indeed, two members of the most recent England team which drew with the All Blacks at Twickenham were born offshore (Ireland and Canada), and there are two New Zealanders on the current England team's coaching staff.

In addition, two New Zealand-born players, Shane Howarth and Simon Mannix, were reportedly asked by England to be considered to play against the All Blacks!

Rugby is a delicious and unquestioned mix of Polynesian and Caucasian cultures in New Zealand where the game has done immeasurable good in making harmonious race relations. And New Zealand rugby applies the qualification rules for its international players, exactly as laid down by the International Rugby Football Board.

Yours etc.,
KEITH QUINN,
63 Wyndrum Avenue,
Lower Hutt,
New Zealand.

Referees in need of help

From Mr Michael Gould

Sir, It is a sad reflection on present rugby legislation when David Hands (December 8) has to refer to England's lineout performance against the All Blacks at Twickenham as "a disaster".

The facts are that England failed to win possession from all 16 New Zealand throws and lost possession on two of their own nine. As a lineout occurs often as a result of excellent defensive play or clever tactical kicking outside the 22 it seems that the balance has swung too heavily against the side conceding the throw.

Surely a lineout should be a more equitable contest lest it becomes as cynical an exercise as the set scrums when all but the most blatant crooked put-ins are now ignored. As the penalty for conceding a throw should be the lesser (for no laws have been broken) why cannot touch judges be empowered to adjudicate on whether a throw is straight?

They are in a far better position than the referee to judge whether a throw is crooked and, if my eyes are to be believed, from watching all four England internationals this season this could result in the lineout being a far more equal contest.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL GOULD,
2 High Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Bath, Avon.

From Mr Anthony Wells

Sir, Having read the somewhat mischievous, even malicious, commentaries in the English newspapers after the England v South Africa match, I can assure the English camp that, as far as the cognoscenti in France (who love "the beautiful game") are concerned, England reached unprecedented heights during their sumptuous encounter with the All Blacks.

Listening to Serge Blanco, the former France captain, unashamedly roaring encouragement to England in the final few minutes, as he gave live commentary for television, says it all for me.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY W. WELLS,
Mas Le Galounet,
30360 Vezenobres, France.

Cheap alternative

From Mr Geoffrey Bubb

Sir, What an expensive and unnecessary posing charade was the World Cup finals draw held in Marseilles.

A dozen urchins from the back streets of Brum, armed with marked bingo balls and an old sack would have achieved the same results for nothing.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BUBB,
38 Berkeley Drive,
Kingswinford,
West Midlands.

This week in THE TIMES

■ **Tomorrow**
England's cricketers play Pakistan with a place in the final in Sharjah at stake.
Plus: *Times* writers select more sports books for Christmas.

■ **Thursday**
The luck of the draw: who will Manchester United, Aston Villa and Chelsea face in the European club football quarter-finals?

■ **Friday**
An Englishman in New York: Srikumar Sen watches Prince Naseem getting ready to dazzle the world of boxing.

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match, Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

Frozen assets can produce golden dividend

DAVID POWELL

on the team hoping to sweep all before them

Had it not been for the overwhelming urge he feels to lead Great Britain towards its first Winter Olympics gold medal since Torvill and Dean's ice dance triumph 13 years ago, Dougie Dryburgh would be serving as an RAF squadron leader in the Falkland Islands. Far happier he is, though, giving orders to men carrying brooms. Promotion from flight lieutenant can wait.

On Dryburgh's instructions, his men sweep frantically in front of a stone gliding on ice, persuading it towards its target. An odd thing for men to be doing, but a necessary part of curling, which becomes a full medal sport at the Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, in February.

Hardly at all since Ravel's *Bolero* accompanied T and D to golden glory in 1984 has there been a sound from within the British camp at Winter Olympics to tremble the opposition. At the Nagano curling rink, though, Scottish accents should do the trick. The Scots invented "the roarin' game", so-called because of the noise a curling stone makes as it travels, and they still hold their place among the world's leading four nations.

"We are after the gold medal or it is failure for us," Peter Wilson, of the Dryburgh team, said — which is how they regarded their bronze medals at the European championships here in Füssen, in southern Germany, on Saturday. Representing Scotland, they defeated Sweden, the world champions, in the third-place play-off, but Dryburgh found defeat by Germany in the semi-finals harder to swallow than if he had tried to pop a playing stone into his mouth.

"We are better than they are," Dryburgh said. "On an even keel, we would beat them. They had home advantage and it is like football in that respect." The Germans, Füssen-based, thrashed Denmark in the final, having beaten Scotland on the last stone. It was a match so tight that Martyn Deakin, the England skip, said: "The difference between Scotland and Germany was like the difference between you and me standing here, seeing which one of us sneezes first."

The Dryburgh team — a flight lieutenant, a farmworker, a contracts manager and a chemical salesman — earned the right to represent Britain in Nagano by winning a domestic qualifying tournament. So determined was Dryburgh that, even before the tournament, he rejected promotion. Sport is in his blood. His father, Jack, was Britain's leading ice hockey scorer for four seasons. His mother, Jacquie, was runner-up in the pairs at the world professional skating championships.

"I could be a squadron leader in the Falkland Islands watching my boys picking up a gold medal in Nagano — no thanks," Dryburgh said. "There are fewer Olympic champions than there are squadron leaders." And few men in the game with Dryburgh's steely nerve. Against Norway, in the quarter-finals, Scotland were heading for defeat, but won by iron will.

"They never give up, they always come back, fighting, fighting," Kristian Sorum, the Norway coach, said. "They will be in the medals in Nagano." Silver or bronze might not satisfy Dryburgh, but even that would be cause for celebration at the British Olympic Association.

Since 1984, only Nicky Gooch, with a bronze for short track speed skating, and Torvill and Dean, with a bronze, have won winter medals for Britain. That the world recognises Dryburgh's team as front-line challengers for Nagano should leave those charged with distributing National Lottery sports funding red with embarrassment. The prime aim of the World Class Performance Plan is to improve Britain's results at Olympic level, but has Dryburgh's team been given the backing it needs? These are, after all, true amateurs, not the wealthy professionals found in some Olympic sports. The answer disgraces the system. "They gave £112,000 to curling teams but did not give any to mine," Dryburgh said. "One of the top teams got £32,000, so we are a bit miffed."

The money was allocated before the conclusion of the Olympic qualifying tournament but, since then, Dryburgh's team has made a second application. Two months later, they have heard nothing. A United Kingdom Sports Council (UKSC) spokesman said on Friday that money was on its way. Too late to allow them to play in a tournament in Switzerland in January. Instead, the team has only domestic competition between now and Nagano.

"They have ended up with egg on their face," Dryburgh said of the UKSC. "They should have a procedure for a quick fix." One which would have enabled the team to enter the Swiss tournament, instead of declining because they could afford no more unpaid leave. "We genuinely believe we are going to win gold medals in Nagano," Ronnie Napier, one of the team, said, "but, irrespective of whether we win gold or bronze, the medal prospect is there. No disrespect to any other British sportsman, be it tobogganing or speed skating, but where else are we going to get a medal from Nagano?"

Switzerland would have provided competition for a team that has one perceived weakness: lack of international experience. "People within the sport think we maybe got lucky to win the Olympic qualifier," Napier said. "The money would allow us to gain the international experience people are suggesting we do not have."

Canada will be favourites to win the men's gold medal, with Britain, Germany and Sweden joint second favourites. In this case, Britain means Scotland. Few in England play the game. There are no rinks south of the border and Stephen Hinds, the England player, has to travel 400 miles to his nearest curling sheet, from Chalfont St Giles to Lockerbie.

Scotland, never out of the medals in the past eight world championships, has 20,000 curlers. If they get in Canada's hair at Nagano, it will be an achievement. "We are outnumbered," Jim Henry, of the Royal Caledonian Club, the game's worldwide mother club, said. "Canada have 20,000 in some cities alone."

> 'Britain's curlers will be among the favourites at the Winter Olympics'

The Royal Caledonian has its roots in the Grand Caledonian, formed in Edinburgh in 1838. In 1843, Queen Victoria granted the club royal patronage after a demonstration of curling on the polished floor of the Scone Palace ballroom. A fact sheet on the rink wall in Füssen in states that "the first evidence of curling was found in Scotland in the 16th century," knocking down claims of ownership from Holland.

Curling is a game of skill and wits, if little athleticism, played in teams of four. "A cold-blooded sport, no physical contact, all to do with the mind," Dryburgh said — more snooker than ice hockey, with lots of shouting as the skip barks instructions to his sweepers.

The object is to complete each end with one of your team's eight stones closer to the centre of the house [circular target] than any of the opposition's. Sweeping the ice can assist a stone's passage by up to 15ft.

"Can you imagine being Olympic champion?" Dryburgh asks while his brother, James, the reserve, laughs at the name of the German skip, Andy Kapp. Andy Capp would never have been caught with a broom in his hand. But then, Britain's best-known cartoon layabout never had an Olympic dream.

UWE LEIN

Stone-cold certainties: Dryburgh's aim and the assistance of Napier, left, and Wilson helped to secure bronze medals at the European championships on Saturday

THE AIM OF THE GAME — A GUIDE TO CURLING

CURLING becomes an official Olympic sport at the Winter Games in February. Long associated with Scotland, where the first evidence of the game was found in the 16th century, the sport is run by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

It is a game of skill and wits, played by teams of four who take it in turns to slide the 42lb, round granite stone almost 40 metres down a sheet of ice towards the "house". The sheet is a lane at least 4.75 metres wide and the house a series of concentric circles, the centre of which is the "button". A game consists of ten ends.

Each member of the team has two stones to curl per end and the object is to complete each end with as many of your team's eight stones closer to the centre of the house than any of the opposition's. One point is scored for each closest stone.

Each team has a skip, who stands near the house and tells his colleagues what to aim for and when to polish the ice in front of the stone with brushes. Sweeping the ice allows the stone to travel farther. The noise produced by the stone gives the sport its soubriquet of the roaring game.

☐ The Royal Caledonian Curling Club, Cairnie House, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 2NB (0131-333 3003).

New programme gives under-fives a top start to life of fun and games

John Goodbody looks at a national scheme designed to encourage the natural abilities of youngsters

JUST how young should children be to practise a national programme of organised play? From this month, children as young as three are taking part in Top Start, the latest in a package of activities transforming PE lessons and sport in British schools.

Top Start is aimed at nursery schools, crèche facilities and out-of-school care clubs for children between three and five years old.

This is not a state development of the kind common to some former communist countries in Europe. Instead, it encourages and directs the natural movement and delight in play of most children.

The programme links with Top Play (for children between four and nine) and Top Sport (seven to 11) for older children in more than 6,000 schools. Steve Grainger, of the Youth Sport Trust, which has introduced the three schemes, said: "We are building a complete pathway through sport. Too often in the past things in education have been done in separate chunks."

Nursery schools receive a wide range of equipment, which is light and bright, stimulating and handled easily by youngsters.

Bean bags look like model frogs, turtles or ladybirds. The balls have different textures. The specially designed scarves will take a long time to fall to the ground after being thrown in the air. There are plastic and rubber markers which children can use imaginatively for stepping games.

Anyone watching pupils at Barry Lower School in Northampton last week, in one of their three weekly PE lessons, would have been struck by their pleasure in the activities. One of the teachers, Angie Mathews, said: "Here is something that is specifically designed for under-fives. It is not a watered-down version of what older children do."

After a "Humpty-Dumpty" warm-up session, during which Mathews asks the class to tell her the benefits of the exercises, the children revel in the different activities. Working individually, in pairs or in groups, they learn basic movements and practise balancing, aiming and hitting a ball.

The activities also help the pupils in their academic studies. Some of the equipment is numbered in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

The colourful cards accompanying the Top Start equipment centre on little cartoon figures "Sporty and his friends" and the children are immediately stimulated by the pictures.

A teacher can show any of the assistants, very quickly and visibly, the activities that are going to take place.

Val Sabin, an advisory teacher in Northampton who designed the cards, said: "This is a scheme for which nurseries have been crying out. It shows how to make the activities easier or how to make them harder."

At Barry Lower School, which has 238 pupils between the ages of four and nine, plus 32 places in the nursery, there is a special unit for children with physical disabilities. However, there is still total integration for them within the mainstream classes.

All these children have support staff alongside them who can help in the use of the cards, on which are written specific details for aiding pupils with disabilities.

Barry Lower School already enjoys an excellent reputation in PE. Most nursery schools do not possess their own gymnasiums. PE lessons invariably take place either in the classroom or in the playground.

Barry Lower is fortunate in having an extensive and imaginatively landscaped playground. But Ingrid Lemon, the head teacher, said: "Top Start will still add something. It is motivating for both staff and pupils."

The school is one of the first of 70 to have taken the product cards and introduced the programme this month. They are paying for it themselves. The scheme will grow even faster across the country when a sponsor is found.

As Grainger said: "In the Top Start programme we are training to give youngsters that essential introduction. We are capturing the first moment of their sporting careers."

☐ *Details of the scheme from: The Youth Sport Trust, Rutland Building, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU.*

Children under five at Barry Lower School are among the first to practise their ball and jumping skills in the Youth Sport Trust scheme. Photographs: Paul Rogers

COTTON OXFORD

HILL, BRACKEN,
DIPROSE & GREWCOCK
LINE OUT AT HARRODS
ON THURSDAY.

This Thursday 18th December, four current England Internationals from Saracens Rugby Club will be visiting the Cotton Oxford area of the Harrods Sports Department between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. Richard Hill, Kyran Bracken, Tony Diprose and Danny Grewcock will be signing autographs and chatting about England's recent performances and the forthcoming Five Nations Tournament. Arrive early; there's bound to be a bit of a scrum.

Team Sports, Fifth Floor.

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'It was a shatteringly sober moment for those who take the game so seriously'

Injury represents real sporting tragedy

Gerald Davies on the disturbing incident that put Gwyn Jones in hospital and rugby in perspective

HUW EVANS

Jones, who suffered a severe neck injury on Saturday, leads Wales out at Wembley for the match against New Zealand two weeks ago

Cardiff Arms Park cannot have known such a sombre day. Sorrow hung in the air, grim and harrowing. There is only one kind of *tragedy in sport*. Neither a team's failure nor a team's weakness is tragic, as some would have us believe. Nor is the loss of national pride through a defeat. These are mere disappointments, perhaps even a joke played against absurd expectations.

Tragedy was present at Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday, when Gwyn Jones's life seemed to be at risk. In the eleventh minute of the first half, as Cardiff moved upfield, their flanker, the Wales captain, was left prostrate after a ruck on his own ten-metre line. There was no sign of any *movement, which echoed the* heart-rending moment on March 28, 1976, when Mervyn Davies, the Wales captain and No 8, who was playing for Swansea against Pontypool in a cup *semi*-final at Cardiff, collapsed after suffering a brain haemorrhage.

Jones, 25, remained in the care of neurosurgeons at the University Hospital in Cardiff, last night. His father, Alan, a doctor, said: "Gwyn has suffered a serious neck injury which left him with some numbness in his limbs. He is being intensively investigated in hospital under the care of a neurosurgeon. We hope things will become clearer over the course of the next week. It is too early to give a definitive long-term prognosis."

A 6ft, 15st flanker, Jones was appointed captain of Wales in the summer and has led them to five wins in six matches. He made *his international debut* in 1996 against Italy.

Sport is an arena of extremes: of pleasure and displeasure, of pain and of fun, of exaggerated emotions and impossible ambitions. Some emotions are more instinctively true than others. We know *what joy is in sport*. We understand what inspires the rejoicing cheers. We are moved by the exhilaration of what we see — a goal, a try. Our heroes running and playing at their best. This is not at all absurd. We cannot help ourselves in our delight.

It is at the other end that matters get out of hand, slightly off-key and not quite honest. Losing arouses false emotions. The anguish can never touch us so deeply as pleasure can elate us at the other extreme. Let us not talk of the tragedy of *failure or the heartache* of missed opportunities. Losing can be made to seem so dramatic. Tragedy cannot be devalued in this way.

Tragedy in sport is what happens as silence descends on a stadium, as it did on Saturday, when a *body lies* motionless; when the doctors are summoned, the stretcher is called and the ambulance speeds its way. Gwyn Jones, a medical student, may not be able to move again. We must hope that he recovers in the way that Mervyn Davies did.

It was a shatteringly sober moment for those of us who, at various times, because of the invigorating nature of sport and the intoxication of the contest, take it so seriously. It is so much part of our lives. But nothing can be so disenchanting as the disablement of the gifted man in his prime and so disabusive of that superficial seriousness that we attach to the game and its result.

This was not all. Garin Jenkins, the Swansea captain, had to leave the field because *his father suffered a heart* attack in the enclosure. A hospital report yesterday stated that he was in a "stable" condition.

The game, after all this, did not matter much. Swansea won 31-22. Cardiff's two late tries gave the score a respectability that they hardly deserved. This may get to mean a good deal at some stage of the season, but not on Saturday. A chill sent a shiver down my spine and made me weak, thinking of things that might have been. But the lure of *rugby and of sport generally is* too great at the time and beyond worry.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: G Thomas 2 (76min, 81). Penalty goals: Jarvis 4 (15, 36, 40, 53). Swansea: Tries: Appleyard (23), Gibbs (60), Davies (67). Conversions: A Thomas 2. Penalty goals: A Thomas 4 (8, 17, 32, 42)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Cardiff first) 0-3, 3-3, 3-6, 3-11, 3-14, 6-14, 9-14 (half-time), 9-17, 12-17, 12-24, 12-31, 17-31, 22-31.

CARDIFF: J Thomas; G Thomas, M Hall, L Botham, N Walker; L Jarvis, R Howley; S John, J Humphries, D Young (rep: L Mustoe, 48min), J Tait, D Jones (rep G Kacala, 51), S Williams, G Jones (rep J Ringer, 11), E Lewis.

SWANSEA: M Back; A Harris, M Taylor, S Gibbs, R Rees, A Thomas, A Booth; J Evans, G Jenkins (rep: C Wells, 60), C Anthony, A Moore, P Arnold (rep. T Morley, 80), R Appleyard, D Thomas (rep C Charvis, 79), S Davies.

Referee: D Davies (Llanbradach).

Students ready to catch the carnival mood

By Michael Aylwin

IT IS an intense programme, but the 16 squads of 25 students that will be competing *in the inaugural Times* Student European Rugby Championship, starting today, can look forward to a week of excitement. This week sees four pools of four university squads brought together in Durham, Toulouse, Cardiff and Cork, each playing three matches in five days for the right to progress into the semi-finals of the tournament next month.

The venture was conceived two years ago by Len Harty, of University College, Cork, and Bob Reeves, of Bristol University. Since then the two, along with Ted Wood, of Durham University, have moved mountains to set up the competition, which is a welcome fillip to a university rugby circuit hard hit by professionalisation. Today sees the initial fruition of their work and it is hoped that European rugby will shortly *enjoy yet more produce from* the university tree.

We can expect to see a carnival of unaffected rugby, played with the proverbial smile on its face, a smile that will no doubt be facilitated by the liberating circumstances in which the players find themselves. The prospect of travelling to a corner of Europe for a week spent in the company of like-minded students would, in itself, wield a potent temptation over even the most blinkered of young men in the modern game.

Toulouse is probably the pick of the four places to be. Toulouse University will shut down for the week and crowds of 10,000 are expected. Here there will be a ferocious challenge from Loughborough, perennially at or near the top of the student order, and Northumbria.

Cork is also liable to lay on a week of high jinks. Oxford, who are taking their strongest squad available, have a handful of injuries from the University match and will face their sternest challenge from the home team, which is the strongest side in Ireland. A young Bristol side will play a characteristically high-tempo game.

Durham are another young side, but enduring a poor season. They will be invaded by a strong, but injury-stricken, Trinity College, Dublin, squad, an unknown quantity in Roma, and the dangerous Swansea, who are probably favourites in an open group.

The other group is likely to be dominated by the home team, Cardiff Institute, who play their Saturday matches in the first division of the Welsh League, but they will have to deal with the threat of Exeter, who are having a fine season.

Whatever the outcome, the benefits of student rugby, namely fun and no small amount of skill, will be in evidence. The modern game in Europe can only benefit from such healthy and uncomplicated energies.

[illegible]

The 16 teams play in four pools in a round-robin tournament this week with the first-named team as hosts. Pool winners qualify for the semi-finals on January 17, 1998 with the final on January 31. Semi-finals and final venues to be decided.

Durham	Toulouse	UWI Cardiff	Cork
Dublin	Loughborough	Exeter	Bristol
Roma	Northumbria	Edinburgh	Oxford
Swansea	Univ Coll Dublin	Queen's Belfast	Welsh Medicals
FIXTURES: Today (at Newcastle Falcons RFC): Durham v Dublin (12.0), Swansea v Roma (2.0). Wednesday (at Durham City RFC): Durham v Swansea (12.0), Roma v Dublin (2.0). Friday (at West Hartlepool RFC): Swansea v Dublin (12.0), Durham v Roma (2.0).	FIXTURES: Today (at Toulouse RFC): Loughborough v UC Dublin (6.0), Toulouse v Northumbria (8.0). Wednesday (at Toulouse University): Northumbria v UC Dublin (2.0), Toulouse v Loughborough (4.0). Friday (at [illegible] RFC): Toulouse v UC Dublin (1.0), Northumbria v Loughborough (3.0).	FIXTURES: Today: [illegible]	FIXTURES: [illegible]

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

One of the many advantages of splinter bids is that if the splinterer subsequently doubles the opponents, his partner will know that the double is not based on trump tricks. This is a hand from the 1995 Crans-sur-Sierre teams tournament.

Dealer North Love all IMPs

♠ Q J 8 2
♥ A 7 4 3
♦ A 9 8 7 5
♣ —

West:
♠ 9 6
♥ K 10 6 5 2
♦ K 10
♣ Q 6 4 3

East:
♠ A 4
♥ Q
♦ Q J 4
♣ A K J 10 9 8 7

South:
♠ K 10 7 5 3
♥ J 9 8
♦ 6 3 2
♣ 5 2

W	N	E	S
Sheehan		Rubin	
—	Pass(1)	1 C	1 S (2)
Double (3)	4 C (4)	Double	4 S
Pass	Pass	5 C	Pass
Pass	Double (5)	Pass	5 S (6)
All Pass			

Contract: Five Spades by South. Lead: three of clubs

1) Many players would open this hand. As those of you who have read my Refresher columns will know, when you are considering opening on marginal hands an important factor is whether you will be able to show all your suits. In this instance, if you open One Diamond you will have to rebid Two Diamonds over Two Clubs, thus giving a misleading impression of your hand type.

Better is to pass. If the opponents bid clubs you can show your hand by making a take-out double. If your partner bids a major you can make a splinter bid, with the safety factor that you have limited your hand by your initial pass. And finally, if your partner's principal suit is clubs, you will have kept the bidding low on a misfit.

2) *Sub-minimum even by tournament standards.*

3) Negative.

4) Splinter — as Three Clubs would also be showing club shortage and spade support, Four Clubs shows a void club with spade support.

5) Now quite safe for me to double — it just announces that within the limits of what I have shown so far I have good defence.

6) Not wanting to defend, although Five Clubs does go one off with the spades 2-2. Five Spades went two off.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

WOOTZ
a. A small marsupial
b. Domestic cleaner
c. Steel

CHIROPLAST
a. A handrest
b. Surgical dressing
c. Masonry filler

FORNIM
a. To appropriate
b. Sea surface creatures
c. Breakfast cereal

PORTUNAL
a. A retiring room
b. Precious stone trinket
c. An organ stop

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Favourites toppled

In the Fide (World Chess Federation) championship at Groningen, Holland, several of the favourites have already been eliminated. Vassily Ivanchuk went out to Yasser Seirawan, Veselin Topalov lost to Jeroen Piket and Judit Polgar was beaten by Zoltan Almasi.

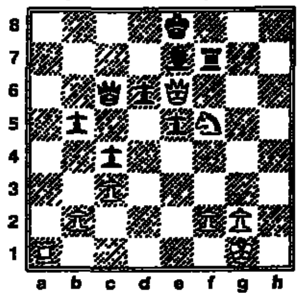
Meanwhile, the three remaining British grandmasters all progressed to the next stage. Adams triumphed over Giorgi Giorgadze, Short eliminated Viktor Korchnoi and Sadler defeated Jaan Ehlvest.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Giorgi Giorgadze
Fide world championship
Groningen, December 1997

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	0-0
8	h3	d6
9	c3	Nb8
10	d4	Nbd7
11	Nbd2	Bb7
12	Bc2	Re8
13	Nf1	Bf8
14	Ng3	g6
15	a4	c5
16	d5	c4
17	Bg5	h6
18	Be3	Nc5
19	Qd2	h5
20	Bg5	Be7
21	Ra3	Rb8
22	Rea1	h4
23	Bxh4	Nfxe4
24	Nxe4	Nxe4
25	Bxe4	Bxh4
26	axb5	axb5
27	Ra5	Bc8
28	Ra7	Bf6
29	h4	Re7
30	h5	Bf5
31	Qc2	Qc8
32	hxg6	fxg6
33	Nd2	Kf8
34	R7a6	Qd7
35	Nf1	Rf7
36	Ng3	Be7
37	Ra7	Rb7
38	Rxb7	Qxb7
39	Bxf5	gxf5
40	Nxf5	Qxd5
41	Qd2	Qc6
42	Qh6+	Ke8
43	Qe6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Yasser Seirawan
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Fide world championship
Groningen, December 1997

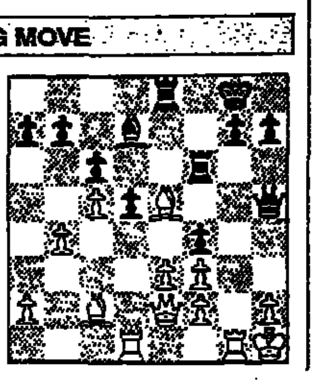
King's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7
4	e4	d6
5	Bd3	e5
6	d5	a5
7	Nge2	Na6
8	f3	Nd7
9	Be3	Bh6
10	Qd2	Bxe3
11	Qxe3	c6
12	Qh6	Ndc5
13	Rd1	Qb6
14	Bb1	Ke7
15	f4	exd4
16	Rf1	Rf8
17	Qxf4	f6
18	dxc6	Qxc6
19	Nd4	Qe8
20	Nd5+	Kd8
21	Qxd6+	Bd7
22	Nb5	Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to play. This position is from the game Burn — Teichmann, Hastings 1895.

Thanks to the open lines on the kingside Black has an immediate winning coup. Can you see it?

Solution on page 45

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

RUGBY UNION: SHELL-SHOCKED BATH MUST REGROUP FOR HEINEKEN CUP SEMI-FINAL NEXT WEEKEND

Pienaar takes Saracens forward

Saracens	50
Bath	23

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TO BEAT Bath is one thing. To score 50 points against them, which no one had done since the introduction of league rugby ten years ago, is quite another and it left the pride of the West Country club in tatters at Vicarage Road yesterday, six days before they play Pau in the semi-finals of the Heineken Cup.

In passing, if anyone had doubted it before, Saracens confirmed themselves as genuine contenders for the Allied Dunbar Premiership title. Unbeaten now in seven games and top of the table, they have been waiting for a month to do this to someone and 10,658 — by far their best attendance — were there to appreciate it.

"We have taken some sniping in the last year or so, about the vision we have, about leaving Southgate and then Enfield, but today is a good staging post," Mark Evans, the Saracens director of rugby, said. "People said Watford would be like a mausoleum but we had people on three sides and, hopefully, many of them will come back.

"Some said that people like Michael Lynagh and Francois Pienaar were here for a pension but their performances have shown that's nonsense." Few players were more influential yesterday, the one for his calm control and ability to draw the best from his three-quarters, the other for his tigerish tackling and the direction he gives to his forwards.

Pienaar, the Saracens player-coach, has been striving to put width on his club's game and here was evidence of his success. All of a sudden, players such as Richard Wallace are men reborn: the Ireland wing ran in two tries, the first before the interval, which confirmed Saracens's supremacy and left Andy Robinson, of Bath, struggling to explain his team's decline.

"We will work hard to lift the pace of our game but today Saracens dictated everything — the pace, the tackle, movement off the ball," Robinson, who hopes that Mike Catt and Adedayo Adebayo will be fit next weekend, said. So much was evident in the first quarter, when Bath failed to pinion Daniel and Bracken sent Johnson, the South Africa full back, over the line for a try on his debut.

Daniel, of Saracens, steps through the tackle of Nicol, the Bath captain, and heads for the line at Vicarage Road yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

Yet Bath, with 13 internationals against Saracens's 12, had no reason to panic; Callard nibbled back with three penalty goals and Paul Wallace, the Ireland prop, limped off, leaving the stage to his brother. Hardly had Callard narrowed the gap to four points than Hill collected a rebound at the restart, the Saracens centres chimed in and Richard Wallace wound his way through a crowd of defenders for his first try.

The introduction of Regan did little to curb Bath's propensity for losing the ball in contact, and no sooner had the hooker arrived than Saracens scored again. Chuter carried the ball forward and Pienaar found Ravenscroft.

That Regan was driven over from a close-range lineout made little difference as Saracens piled on the agony: Evans, with 70 metres to go, erupted onto a dropped ball by Daniel only to be called back when Brian Campsall awarded offside against Bath. Lynagh took a quick tap, his front row joined in and Daniel gleefully crossed the line.

The New Zealander was also involved in the London club's final score: he created the ruck from which Lynagh and Diprose gave Johnson just enough space to cross for his second. "The standard has levelled up," Evans said as he watched the ruin of Bath's Premiership season (they have now lost three of their six matches). "We had the most boring duopoly in the land: if Bath didn't win it Leicester did. But now you have sides like ourselves and Newcastle helping make it a strong premiership." As it happens, Leicester are the next visitors to Vicarage Road, on Boxing Day — if that does not pull the patrons back, nothing will.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Johnson 2 (14min, 70), R Wallace 2 (30, 36), Ravenscroft (42), Daniel (59). Conversions: Lynagh 4. Penalty goals: Lynagh 4 (6, 21, 35, 48). Bath: Tries: Regan (45), Butland (81). Conversions: Callard 2. Penalty goals: Callard 3 (8, 18, 30).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Saracens first): 3-0, 3-3, 10-3, 10-6, 13-6, 13-9, 18-9, 21-9, 28-9 (half-time), 33-9, 36-9, 35-16, 43-16, 50-16, 50-23

SARACENS: G Johnson, B Daniel, R Constable, S Ravenscroft, R Wallace; M Lynagh (rep: A Lee, 73min), K Bracken; R Grau, G Chuter, P Wallace (rep: A Olver, 15), P Johns, D Grewcock, F Pienaar, R Hill (rep: B Sturnham, 69), A Diprose.

BATH: J Callard, I Evans, M Tindall, P de Glanville, M Perry; R Butland, A Nicol (rep: R Pellow, 44); K Yates, A Long (rep: M Regan, 40), V Ubogu (rep: D Hilton, 69), G Llanes (rep: B Cusack, 69), N Redman, N Thomas, E Peters (rep: Cusack, 26-32), D Lyle

Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire).

Newcastle get in the swing for Europe

Newcastle Falcons	37
Gloucester	27

BY KEVIN FERRIE

WITH one eye on the visit to Agen next weekend for the European Conference semi-final, Rob Andrew, the Newcastle Falcons director of rugby, took the opportunity to rest five frontline players. Looking longer term, however, the true significance of this performance may be the demonstration of strength in depth, providing a powerful indication of the capacity to sustain a title challenge right through this season.

The scoreline suggests that Newcastle were pushed all the way at Kingston Park, yet there was never any feeling that their 100 per cent league record was under threat.

Indeed if their player/manager delivered any sort of tongue-lashing to his men afterwards it would only be for failing to make his job easier by scoring their tries closer to the posts. The cheer that greeted Rob Andrew's conversion of Gary Armstrong's second try was as sarcastic as the mock sympathy from the stands earlier when Chris Catling, the Gloucester full back, gingerly checked for blood after a high tackle.

They are a tough lot in Newcastle and even their leader is not safe from the treatment. After all, he had missed his previous five shots at goal, taking over again only after Stuart Legg's second failed conversion attempt was hooked along the ground.

That statistic, more than any other, is what flattered Gloucester. Not only because Newcastle failed to extract the maximum from their own efforts, but because it also maintained the interest of the men from the South West.

A try count of 7-3 was, however, a much fairer reflection of their superiority. After Gloucester briefly claimed an early lead, Armstrong's opportunism, pouncing on ill-directed lineout ball close to their line, followed by a push-over try for the man at the heart of Newcastle's forward effort, player-coach Dean Ryan, set the tone.

It was a surprise when Gloucester drew level — through the award of a penalty try for collapsing a scrum.

Two personal triumphs put Newcastle comfortably in control at the interval. The approach of Richard Metcalfe to the game has been intensified after his mother's recent death and the 7ft 1in player was impressive in the first half. He came onto the ball unstoppably at the base of a close-range ruck to score.

Shortly afterwards Tony Underwood was put into the left corner by fellow Lion Alan Tait's floated pass to mark his comeback in style, having suffered a knee injury on the opening day of the league season in August.

In the second half Paul Vanzandvliet bulldozed his way over and Legg took the scoring pass from Naylor's replacement, John Bentley, to finish a fine move, before the Armstrong finished what he had started, driving over from a five-metre scrumm.

Gloucester deserved their second half tries from Chris Catling and his replacement, Rob Jewell, on his debut, but they were facing a class side, whose only real cause concern was a collar-bone injury to England lock Garath Archer, that meant a visit to hospital last night.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Tries: Armstrong 2 (6min, 78), Ryan (16), Metcalfe (29), Underwood (37), Vanzandvliet (46), Legg (60). Conversion: Andrew. Gloucester: Tries: Penalty try (26), Catling (65), Jewell (80). Conversions: Mapletoft 3. Penalty goals: Mapletoft 2 (2, 49)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Newcastle first): 0-3, 5-3, 10-3, 10-10, 15-10, 20-10 (half-time), 25-10, 25-13, 30-13, 30-20, 37-20, 37-27.

NEWCASTLE FALCONS: S Legg, J Bentley, G Childs, A Tait, T Underwood; R Andrew, G Armstrong; G Graham, R Nesdale, P Vanzandvliet, G Archer (rep: G Weir, 72min), R Metcalfe, P Walton (rep: P Lam, 65), R Arnold, D Ryan.

GLOUCESTER: C Catling (rep: R Jewell 80), B Johnson, T Fanolua, R Tombs, A Lumsden; M Mapletoft, S Benton; A Windo, N McCarthy, P Vickery, R Fidler (rep: A Hazell, 80), M Cornwell, P Glanville, N Carter, S Devereux.

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool).

Leicester go with youth

Leicester	55
Sale	15

BY DAVID HANDS

LAST May, Leicester ended their league season in a haze of misty-eyed fatigue after playing eight games in 32 days, the last of them against Sale when a taut draw gave them a place in Europe. This month brings back echoes of that treadmill, with five Allied Dunbar Premiership games scheduled within 18 days, but Leicester's form could not be better.

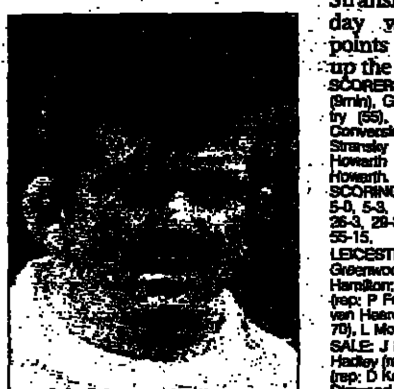
"That's one of the best performances I have seen from a club side since I have been in England," John Mitchell, the Sale director of rugby, said, aware of the irony involved. Mitchell, as the England assistant coach, has been preparing Martin Johnson, Darren Garforth, Graham Rowntree and the rested Richard Cockerill for the past month — paying, indeed, rather more attention to Leicester's forwards than he has been able to do to his own.

But the significance for Leicester in only their fourth Premiership game was the display not only of their internationals but of the youngsters, who have been plying their trade in the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup. Dorian West reminded more than 10,000 people why he won England A caps at hooker last season and the young flankers, Lewis Moody, 19, and Paul Gustard, 21, were outstanding.

The average age of Leicester's back row was under 21, evidence of far greater strength in depth than last season. No Serevi, no Joiner, Cockerill, Back or Corry — internationals all — yet the team that stood third in the first division on Saturday morning came crashing to their worst defeat against Leicester. But there was ambition, creativity and moments of high skill and drama.

Time after time Leicester's tight forwards carried the ball up, no one better than Graham Rowntree.

Sale's lineout, usually so effective against Leicester, was blown away in the first half, Fritz van Heerden marking his debut with a stream of good catches.


Rowntree: in form

Two of Leicester's seven tries were outstanding in any company: the first, scored by Gustard, was a wonderful example of back-row play, Miller taking the ball to the blind side of a scrum, Hamilton and Healey combining before sleight of hand by Miller and Moody sent the blind-side flanker over.

The second, scored by Horak, stemmed from his own 22 when Stransky, moments after treatment for a blow to the face, took a pass from his Western Province colleague, Van Heerden, and broke past the Sale back row. Greenwood took up the running, Stransky looped in support and Horak strode up from full back to finish. Stransky's conversion, on a day when he passed 200 points for the season, brought up the half-century.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: M Johnson (9min), Gustard (34), Moody (43), penalty try (55), West (58), Horak 2 (69, 76). Conversions: Stransky 4. Penalty goals: Stransky 4 (23, 26, 40, 51). Sale: Tries: Howarth (79), Raiwalui (81). Conversion: Howarth. Penalty goal: Howarth (21).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Leicester first): 5-0, 5-3, 8-3, 11-3, 16-3, 19-3 (half-time), 26-3, 29-3, 36-3, 43-3, 50-3, 55-3, 55-10, 55-15.

LEICESTER: M Horak; A Healey, W Greenwood, S Potter, L Lloyd; J Stransky, J Hamilton; G Rowntree, D West, D Garforth (rep: P Freshwater, 62min), M Johnson, F van Heerden; P Gustard (rep: W Johnson, 70), L Moody, E Miller

SALE: J Mallinder; D Rees, S Howarth, A Hadley (rep: C Yates, 56), T Beim; S Mannix (rep: D Kenny, 70), K Ellis; P Winstanley, S Diamond, D Williamson (rep: D Bell, 59), S Raiwalui; D Baldwin, D Erskine, P Sanderson (rep: D O'Grady, 45), D O'Cuinneagan (rep: C Vyvyan, 45).

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset)

Mastery of Pagel humbles Irish

London Irish	10
Northampton	51

BY PETER BILLS

A MATCH of 61 points, seven tries and no end of surging attacking play involving 22 international players was totally dominated by a prop forward. If that appears somewhat Irish, then no one at Sunbury on Saturday night could see the funny side of it. There are defeats and defeats, but the one suffered by the exiles was so overwhelming that Irish may take some time to recover mentally, never mind physically.

A game that London Irish had targeted as one essential to win became a rout chiefly because Northampton, unlike so many other clubs investing in expensive, overrated foreign players, had signed a gem from South Africa — Garry Pagel, a loose-head prop.

The former South Africa international only arrived a month ago but his influence on Ian McGeechan's side has been startling. Where once Tim Rodber battled mightily, but largely alone, among his forwards now exists a hard core of players able to provide a real platform for the club's talented backs.

McGeechan said of his new acquisition: "He is immensely strong, a tremendous scrummager, but a good ball-player, too. And he is good for the other players; our other forwards are benefiting and we are putting new focus on the scrummaging."

Pagel capped a masterful performance with a second-half try, clearly having decided that he had wreaked sufficient havoc in the tight to be permitted some freedom in the loose.

Irish have a dilemma. Their finances were put in place too late to buy the high-quality men they need to enhance their squad. So while, commendably, they refuse to buy inferior players they must persevere with some plainly not good enough. The classic Catch-22 situation.

SCORERS: London Irish: Try: McCall (18min). Conversion: Woods. Penalty goal: Woods (53). Northampton: Tries: Pountney (36), Dawson (47), Pagel (65), Townsend (67), Allen (77), Grayson (80). Conversions: Grayson 6. Penalty goals: Grayson 3 (13, 21, 25)

SCORING SEQUENCE (London Irish first): 0-3, 7-3, 7-6, 7-9, 7-16 (half-time), 7-23, 10-23, 10-30, 10-37, 10-44, 10-51

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea; J Bishop, N Burrows (rep: R Hennessy, 60min), M McCall (rep: S Burns, 71), N Woods; D Humphreys, N Hogan; J Fitzpatrick, A Redmond, G Halpin, G Fulcher (rep: L Mooney, 71; rep: K O'Connell, 75), M O'Kelly, K O'Connell (rep: R Kellam, 65), K Dawson (rep: C Bird, 60), K Spicer

NORTHAMPTON: I Hunter (rep: B Cohen, 52), J Sleightholme, G Townsend, M Allen, J Bell; P Grayson, M Dawson; G Pagel, A Clarke, M Stewart, J Phillips, J Chandler, D McKinnon, A Pountney (rep: G Seely 63-77), T Rodber

Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire)

Wasps fail to follow leader

Harlequins	53
Wasps	17

BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

THINGS cannot get much better for Lawrence Dallaglio: captain of the league champions, captain of England, a Lion who roared; Allied Dunbar/*Rugby World* player of the month, Rugby Writers' Club personality of the season, a column in *The Times* . . . but the man Nigel Melville calls "Superman" has played nine matches, lost seven and drawn two since early October.

While the New Zealand players have three months' rest and recuperation before the Super 12, Dallaglio spent only a couple of days in Ireland last week before plunging back into a league campaign that, for Wasps, has assumed critical proportions.

Some of those at the Stoop on Saturday may have played as though they had had three months off — not three weeks — but not Dallaglio. "I would love to have 14 men who could play like him," Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, said. "He was on a different level."

An inspirational captain notwithstanding, the league trophy has now been dusted down and handed back by Wasps. Four successive defeats including this, their heaviest since the league began, leaves them contemplating a rematch with Harlequins in the Tetley's Bitter Cup in three weeks in the knowledge that it is their only real chance of silverware.

"We're not doing that much different," Melville, struggling to put his finger on what is going wrong, said. "We looked like we hadn't played for a while. We gave them too many points in the first half."

While that was true, it was Harlequins who, initially, were the side imbued with festive spirit. After Lacroix had kicked a first-minute dropped goal, Quins so comprehensively failed to deal with King's restart that it bobbled through at least three pairs of hands before running loose over the line, where Ions pounced for probably the fastest debut try ever scored.

Thereafter, though, it was one-way traffic as Lacroix kicked Harlequins back into the lead and O'Leary's interception try put them 12 points clear at the break. Four minutes after the restart, Williams killed off any chance of a Wasps comeback.

Lacroix: man of the match

Jim Fleming awarded a penalty try to either side, but Lacroix, the man of the match, then scored the try of the game after good work from Leach and Cuttitta. Tollett intercepted Rees's desperate, one-handed, crossfield pass and O'Leary rounded it off with his second score in injury time.

Harlequins were pleased with themselves afterwards, but they had Wasps to thank. Dropped passes, spilt ball and turnovers littered their game. "We're playing a more expensive game," Melville said. "It's the road we have to go down. If the players can't adapt, we'll have to get new ones."

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary 2 (39, 80), Williams (44), penalty try (53), Lacroix (70), Tollett (79). Conversions: Lacroix 3, Challinor. Penalty goals: Lacroix 3 (3, 8, 33). Dropped goals: Lacroix 2 (1, 31). Wasps: Tries: Ions (2), penalty try (60). Conversions: Rees 2. Penalty goal: Rees (29)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Harlequins first): 3-0, 3-7, 6-7, 9-7, 9-10, 12-10, 15-10, 22-10 (half-time), 27-10, 34-10, 34-17, 41-17, 48-17, 53-17

HARLEQUINS: J Williams, D O'Leary, J Keyter, J Ngauamo (rep: T Tollett, 55min), L Bellgoi; T Lacroix (rep: P Challinor, 73), N Walshe; D Rouse, T Billups (rep: K Wood, 13), M Cuttitta, Gareth Llewellyn, R Strudwick, R Jenkins (rep: L Cabannes, 53), W Davison, A Leach

WASPS: G Rees; S Roiser, R Henderson, L Scrase, K Logan; A King, M Wood; D Molloy (rep: A Black, 60), S Mitchell (rep: T Leota, 18), I Dunston, M Weedon, A Reed (rep: S Shaw, 57), L Dallaglio, J Ions (rep: J Worsley, 66), C Sheasby

Referee: J Fleming (Scotland)

Struggling Bristol pay high price for lack of self-belief

Bristol	12
Richmond	13

BY BARNEY SPENDER

AFTER the rich banquet of international rugby over the past month, it was inevitable that at least one game at the weekend would be rather less of a fine wine-tasting than a navvies' brew-up. An appropriate choice, no doubt, for the sponsor, PG Tips.

However, it was rather less so for the 2,500 fans at the Memorial Ground. It was a tight match settled in the last minute when Paul Burke's long-range dropped goal attempt went wide of the Richmond posts to give the visiting team the narrowest of wins. That provided a nailbiting finish but anyone looking for art and finesse would have had to search elsewhere.

For both teams the problem lay, to differing degrees, in a lack of self-belief, an affliction that manifests itself in a lack of ambition. Alan Davies, the Bristol coach, talked of his side's anxiety during the scoreless first half, when they dominated possession but failed to make it count. John Kingston, his Richmond counterpart, echoed those thoughts.

"We are still not sure about ourselves in the first division, we don't have that consummate confidence to say that we are good players," he said.

At least Kingston had the consolation of a barnstorming performance from Scott Quinnell, and two well-worked second half tries from Jason Wright, the New Zealander. Matt Pini's penalty goal two minutes from time secured the points that leave Richmond in mid-table.

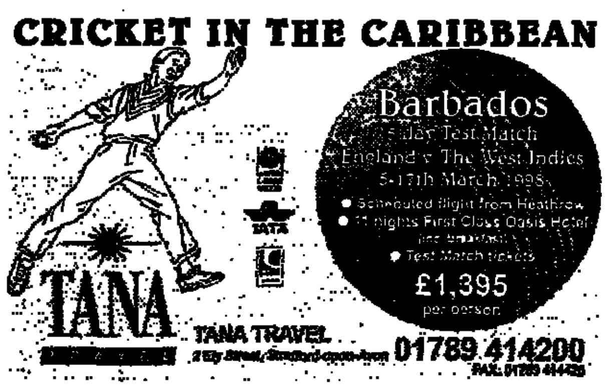
SCORERS: Bristol: Penalty goals: Burke 4 (41, 58, 60, 68). Richmond: Tries: Wright 2 (50, 55). Penalty goal: Pini (78).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Bristol first): 0-0 (half-time), 3-0, 3-5, 3-10, 6-10, 9-10, 12-10, 12-13.

BRISTOL: I Jones, D Tueti (rep: J Lewsey, 74min), P Hull, K Maggs, D Yapp; P Burke, R Jones; M Worsley (rep: M Morgan, 55), F Landreau (rep: K Dunn, 58), K Fullman, P Adams, C Eagle (rep: T Deverge, 60), D Corkery, C Short, E Rollitt.

RICHMOND: M Pini; S Brown (rep: J Wright, 40), A Bateman, S Cottrell, D Chapman; E Va'a, A Moore; D Crompton, B Williams, J Davies, C Quinnell, C Gillies, R Martin, B Clarke, S Quinnell

Referee: G Hughes (Manchester).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SWIMMING

Hickman to rest on his laurels after records

JAMES HICKMAN, who broke the two oldest surviving men's national records at the weekend, collected the award for outstanding swimmer of the British championships in Sheffield yesterday but then, like the dog with a bone that refuses to chase the stick, promptly announced that he would not be defending his 200 metres butterfly title after all.

"I don't think I need to now," the world short-course champion said. Before winning the 200 and 400 metres medley titles in times that brought every British record for men into the 1990s, Hickman, 21, had in fact already won the 200 metres butterfly final on Thursday.

However, while his time for the distance over which he became world short-course champion in Sweden last spring was well inside the qualifying time needed for the world championships, in Perth, Australia, next month, the championship race had to be annulled.

Sheffield results 39

The top of the starting block in lane three had dislodged when Eddie Clement, of University of Bath, dived in. It was decided to hold a second final at the end of the championships, which concluded last night with about ten additional swimmers expected to swell the British team for Perth to 32 when the squad is announced today, making it the largest Britain squad to enter a world championships.

Given that a swimmer is supposed to be as good as his last race, Hickman's decision to take an early bath yesterday and leave the butterfly title to Roger Ashcroft, of Wigan Wasps, may well have been wise.

He had just won the 400 metres medley title in 4min 22.24sec, 1.96sec inside the longest surviving British men's record, held by John Davey, of Salford, since 1987.

On Saturday, Hickman's 2min 02.74sec victory in the 200 metres medley title shaved 0.46sec off the previous record set in 1988 by Neil Cochran, of Aberdeen.

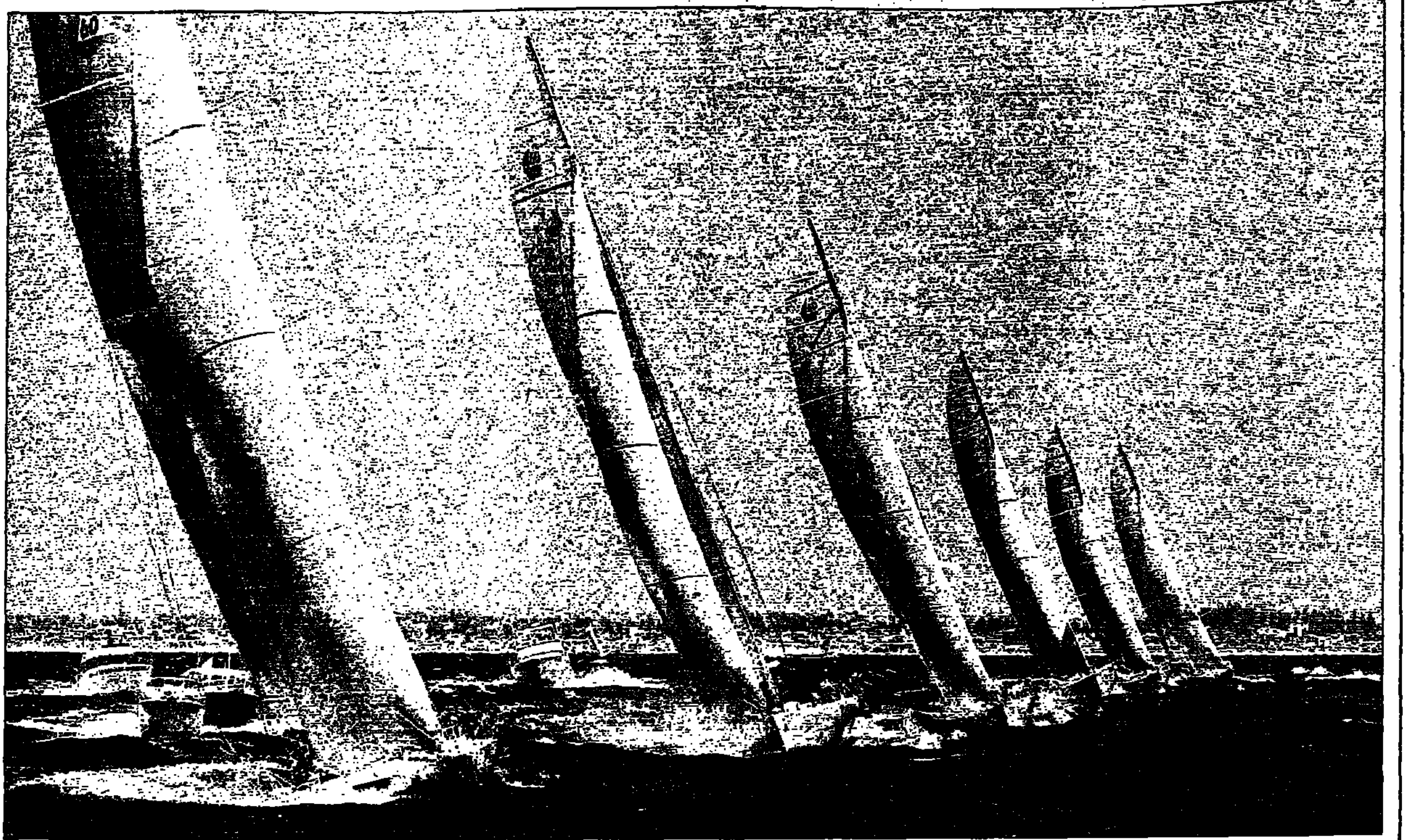
"I think I've won enough — I'd only go slower," Hickman said before heading for the changing-room instead of the starting block. He was keen to get home to Stockport before a whirlwind month in which he will spend the next four days at a national training camp in Millfield, Somerset, before heading out to Perth on Boxing Day and a mission to win a medal in the 200 metres butterfly.

Hickman is likely to add the 200 metres medley to his schedule in Perth after his Sheffield performances, although he will be lucky to make the final without further improvement in an event that has become a weak point in British swimming.

There was a note of sadness, too, in the 200 metres breaststroke, in which Adrian Whitehead, only 17, swam a best time of 2min 16.45sec for his first national title but was outside the standard needed to take him to Perth.

Meanwhile, Margaretha Pedder, of Portsmouth Northsea, provided one of the best performances yesterday, in winning the women's 200 metres butterfly in 2min 13.59sec — a best time and one executed while the swimmer is still in training for Perth. Though she must take another two seconds off that time to get inside the national record that Samantha Purvis set in the Olympic final in 1984, Pedder is one of several prospects who give hope of a break from what have been lean times for the British women in international waters.

Whitbread leader forced to make running repairs at start of third leg



The Whitbread Round the World Race fleet sets out from Fremantle in orderly fashion at the start of the third leg. Photograph: Stephen Munday/Allsport

Mast damage delays Frostad

By Edward Gorman
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THESE are difficult days for *Innovation Kvaerner*. The boat is trying to maintain her form on the third leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race, which started from Fremantle on Saturday, after the discovery of worrying dents and buckles in the lower part of the mast.

Innovation Kvaerner has been the most consistent boat in the race with top-three finishes in the first two legs. Now, Knut Frostad, the skipper, has to balance his desire to repeat that success on the relatively short 2,250-mile trip to Sydney with the risk that he may lose the mast altogether.

Problems with the spar were spotted by the crew after the first night at sea yesterday morning, after a spell of hard upwind work, when the closely bunched fleet was crashing into 32-knot headwinds on the way towards Point D'Entrecasteaux. The damage indicates that the mast was on the way to a compression fracture, which could have been caused by violent shaking of the rig through a tack or after the boat hit a big wave, or that the rig may have twisted slightly.

As soon as the problems were discovered, Frostad, the youngest skipper in the fleet, requested that a repair kit be dropped by helicopter. In order to comply with race rules, he had to divert *Innovation Kvaerner* inshore, to be within a mile of the coast, when the drop was made. Waiting for the helicopter, the boat hove-to for 25 minutes — an age in this event — and she slipped from fifth place to last.

According to officials at race headquarters, Frostad and his crew effected satisfactory repairs before they set to work with the repair kit. They were reported to be back racing again last night and "confident" that the damage would not prevent them from pushing the boat hard enough to maintain their overall lead. However, a top-three finish this time round will be a tall order.

The nine-strong fleet got away cleanly downwind in 22 knots on Saturday, watched by a good gallery on shore and many spectator boats off Fremantle harbour. First across the line was Gunnar Krantz's *Swedish Match*, which later showed lightning speed upwind in the breeze, but it was Paul Cayard in *EF Language*, in second place overall, who made the early running on the parade lap.

The Californian was then first to Rottnest Island and yesterday, at a position just to the west of Cave Point, 380 miles down the track, he had the narrowest of leads over Krantz, with Grant Dalton a mile astern in third.

So far, this leg has seen the sort of close fleet-racing that skippers have longed for and were expecting to be the norm. Even after a long night bashing to windward, there was little to chose between the boats the next morning. Yesterday, as the fleet hugged the coast to avoid a high-pressure system to the south and east, there was only 9.2 miles between first and last.

Cayard, meanwhile, has been on top form at the computer, delivering three reports by the end of the second day at sea. "This leg should feature more lead-changes and tight racing than the first two," he said in a brief message before the start. "I will give you all the details I can as we go down the track to Sydney — just throw a little water on yourself, if you really want to get in the mood."

Twenty-four hours later, Cayard was soaked through and his sleeping bag awash after one of the water ballast tanks on *EF Language* burst, sending a ton of water over the skipper's bunk. "My socks stink so bad I can't stand them already and I got four hours' sleep in the first 24 hours, even after Rudi [Mark Rudiger, the navigator] and I discussed not getting burnt out in the first 24 hours," Cayard reported.

Rounding Cape Leeuwin, *EF Language* was tacking about once an hour, requiring the off-watch crew to move tons of food, sails and spares from one side of the boat to the other every time. On her sister ship, *EF Education*, crewed by the all-female team led by Christine Guillou, a winch sheared off its mounting and flew over the side as Anna Drougge was attempting to increase the tension on the jib halyard. Drougge was lucky to escape with nothing more than a badly bruised hand.

ICE HOCKEY

Storm go clear at the top in goal burst

By Norman de Mesquita

MANCHESTER Storm have moved two points clear at the top of the Superleague after a 6-3 win over Nottingham Panthers, the joint-leaders before the match, on Saturday.

Marty Dallman put the Panthers ahead after five minutes, but Stefan Ketola equalised less than three minutes later.

Three more goals in the first period gave Storm a 4-1 lead and the teams shared two goals in each of the remaining periods.

Jim Hrivnak had an excellent game in goal for the Storm, making 35 saves and assisting in the fifth Manchester goal early in the second period.

Ayr Scottish Eagles leapfrogged over Sheffield Steelers with a 6-2 away win against Basingstoke Bison, in which Mark Woolf was the inspiration with three assists. Most of his creative work was completed by Danuse Bauba, who scored twice.

Basingstoke's two markers came during the last six minutes of the game and served only to give an air of respectability to the score.

Bracknell Bees sprang a surprise with a 4-1 win over Cardiff Devils. Tom Gomes scored the only goal of the first period, neither side could find the net in the second and Bracknell won the third 3-1.

In the Express Cup, Sheffield Steelers beat Newcastle Cobras 7-3. Nicky Chinn scored after 26 seconds and, although Roy Mitchell scored twice in less than a minute later in the first period, the Steelers were 4-2 ahead by the interval and never in danger of being caught.

This competition does not appear to have caught the imagination of the players or the public. The attendance at the Sheffield Arena was 3,851, by far the smallest number to watch a Saturday game in Sheffield for some time.

Results, page 39

ICE SKATING: TEENAGER WILSON BOWS TO MORE EXPERIENCED RIVAL IN BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cousins books his ticket for Olympic Games

By Angela Court

STEVEN COUSINS will fly the flag for Great Britain in figure skating at the Winter Olympic Games next year after regaining the British men's title on Saturday evening. In what was effectively a head-to-head decider to secure a place in the squad, Cousins beat Neil Wilson, 19, the British champion in 1996, into second place, ensuring his ticket for the Games in Nagano, Japan.

With just one place available for a British man at the Games, the British championships were used to decide whether Cousins or Wilson would go. Having won both sections of the event convincingly, Cousins, the champion for seven years before Wilson broke through 12 months ago, got the go-ahead from the selectors.

Yet his performance in the free programme on Saturday was below his best. Skating to music from *Gone With The Wind*, he opened strongly with a triple lutz, but fell on a triple axel, turned a later attempt into a double and offered no triple-jump combination.

"I wasn't particularly happy with the way I skated," he said. "I felt anxious out there, but it's the end result that counts. I wanted to win the title again and I'm very relieved to have succeeded. I've shown I'm not dead and buried."

Wilson also came to grief on the triple axel and fell off the landing of a triple salchow. His five cleanly landed triple jumps totalled one more than Cousins, but he lacked the overall strength and maturity of his rival. "I didn't come here expecting to win," he said later. "My main aim was to skate well."

In the women's event, Jenna Arrowsmith, of Swindon, won her third title in four years in a competition littered with errors — but at least there was a competition. Marsha Poluliaschenko and Andrew Seabrook, of Swindon, the new senior pair champions, deserve much credit for their free programme for, despite having to perform rather than compete (there were no other entries) they showed great promise with two excellent throws, a double axel and a triple toe-loop.

Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, of Slough, took over the ice dance title vacated by Marika Humphreys and Philip Askew.

BOWLS

Falcon swoop to bring down the champions

CAMBRIDGE Park, Cumbria and Falcon are the only former winners of the Denny Cup left in the national inter-club championship after the fifth round on Saturday. It was a day that saw the eclipse of the holders, North Walsham, at the hands of Falcon, who now play at Chelmsford (David Rhys Jones writes).

The champions led throughout, but had a costly lapse between the fifteenth and eighteenth ends, and were pipped 79-77 after 21 ends. A firing shot from Mike Green turned an adverse lie of two shots into a treble. Brian Taylor saw both his woods slide by the jack, leaving Falcon with a two-shots victory.

Cambridge Park overwhelmed Crystal Palace 108-52 while Cumbria, the 1996 champions, defeated Great Aycliffe 74-65.

NETBALL

England made to think again

By Alix Ramsay

THREE international matches, three defeats and the England coach, Mary Beardwood, is left scratching her head and talking about going back to the drawing-board. Her side was overwhelmed 70-45 by New Zealand, their heaviest defeat of the series, in Newcastle on Saturday.

England may have lost the first two games but at least they went down fighting: New Zealand had been tetchy as England made them work for their victories. But come Saturday New Zealand were stronger, faster and more clever than England.

There had been a few niggles through the week as neither side co-operated with the other camp, but such childish matters were thrown to one side as New Zealand showed the 3,000 spectators how grown-ups win netball matches. In the opening minutes England stood on equal terms at 1-1, but from there on it was all downhill.

New Zealand had changed their goalkeeper after Tanya Cox was deemed to have been throwing her not inconsiderable weight around a little too much in the opening games, so in came Linda Vagana. More athletic than Cox, she worked well with Belinda Blair at goal defence to break up the England attack. At the other end Teresa Tairi was having a field day, scoring the lion's share of the New Zealand goals, finding the target from anywhere in the England circle.

Beardwood tried to ring the changes and only Fiona Murtagh, the captain, played the full 60 minutes as the team was reorganised at the end of each quarter. It made little difference as the visiting team kept piling on the goals.

The drawing-board beckons for England.

SPEEDWAY

Honda offers engine boost

By Tony Hoare

AN engine that could bring a new look to the sport was unveiled to the public yesterday. Honda Britain, the domestic arm of the Japanese engine company, is proposing to sponsor the 1998 Premier League by supplying production engines at cost price.

The 650cc motor was used in demonstration races at the Brighton Bonanza indoor meeting yesterday. Mick Grant, the former leading road racer who is now employed by Honda Britain, has worked closely with Neil Machin, from Sheffield Speedway, as part of a special project to mark Honda's fiftieth anniversary.

Under the proposed deal, which was discussed at the recent British Speedway Promoters' Association (BSPA) conference, all riders in the Premier League next year — to be called the Honda League — would ride bikes fitted with the standard engine.

The plan has been greeted cautiously in the higher reaches of the BSPA, but Machin said: "This would cure 90 per cent of the things wrong with speedway." The sport's financial problems are evident, with Hull this week joining Newcastle in closing down for next season.

Grant confirmed that Honda Britain wants to become involved in the sport as a public-relations exercise and would make no money from the project. But it must be hurried through for 1998, despite some promoters wanting next year to be used for testing.

Grant visited a meeting at Sheffield last season and was disappointed with the lack of overtaking moves. The standard engine would change that, he claimed.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

TODAY

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership
Manchester Utd v Aston Villa (8.0)

FA Cup
Second-round replay
Stevenage v Cambridge Utd (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde v Spennymoor.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Purfleet v Harrow

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Wimbledon (at Kingstonian, 7.0)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Huddersfield v Middlesbrough (7.0); Sunderland v Manchester City (at Durham City FC, 7.0) Wolverhampton v Notts County (at Telford United FC, 7.0). **Second division:** Lincoln v Bradford (7.0) Sheffield Utd v Rotherham (at Don Valley Stadium, 7.0) **Third division:** Newcastle v Hull (at Gateshead FC, 7.0)

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Chard v Melksham

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Clitheroe v Vauxhall GM

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Ipswich v Great Wakering; Woking v Gillingham

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Uni-Ball Trophy: South pool: Leopards v Watford Royals (7.0)

RACING: Newcastle (first race 12.40), Newton Abbot (12.30), Warwick (12.20)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Second-round replays: * Basingstoke v Northampton (7.45), Boreham Wood v Cheltenham; Chesterfield v Grimsby (7.45); Hereford v Colchester (7.45); Notts County v Preston (7.45); Watford v Torquay (7.45)

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Richmond v Leicester (8.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European Cup: Rhondorf (Ger) v London Towers (7.30)

RACING: Folkestone (12.30), Hereford (1.10), Musselburgh (12.45)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying play-off, second leg: England (0) v Greece (0) (at Norwich City, 7.45)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Newcastle v Derby (7.45).

FA CUP: Second-round replays: Emley v Lincoln (at Huddersfield Town FC, 7.45). * Ilkeston v Scunthorpe (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Men's National Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Birmingham Bullets (55) v Thames Valley Tigers (63) (7.0)

RACING: Bangor (12.40), Catterick (1.0), Exeter (1.20)

THURSDAY

BASKETBALL: Men's National Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Leicester Riders v London Towers (8.0).

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia international showjumping championships

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Sheffield Steelers v Basingstoke Bison (7.30) Express Cup: Manchester Storm v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.30), Cardiff Devils v Nottingham Panthers (7.0).

RACING: Catterick (12.30), Towcester (12.40), Southwell (AW, 12.50)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Fulham v Burnley (7.45), Oldham v Walsall (7.45), Southend v York (7.45) **Third division:** Colchester v Chester (7.45), Doncaster v Rotherham; Scarborough v Barnet

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Stevenage v Cheltenham (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester Giants v Crystal Palace (7.30), Thames Valley Tigers v Leopards (8.0); Newcastle Eagles v Watford Royals (7.30)

BOXING: World Boxing Council super-middleweight championship: R Reid (Runcorn, holder) v T Malinga (SA). World Boxing Organisation light-middleweight championship: R Wright (US) v A Dodson (Islington). WBO bantamweight championship: R Regan (Wales, holder) v J Julio (Col). WBO super-featherweight championship (vacant): B Jones (Cardiff) v W Palacio; **WBO strawweight championship** (vacant) M Cantwell (Eltham) v E Jamili (Phil). **European bantamweight championship** (vacant) D Francis (Basingstoke) v F Seiler (Fr). **British light-middleweight championship** (vacant) E Bingham (Manchester) v N Thurbin (Ilford) (London Arena, Docklands)

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia international showjumping championships

RACING: Hexham (12.30), Uttoxeter (1.10), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.45)

SPEED SKATING: British championships (in Guildford)

TABLE TENNIS: European Men's League: Super division: Semi-final, first leg: England v Greece

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Southampton; Blackburn v West Ham; Derby v Crystal Palace; Leeds v Bolton; Leicester v Everton; Liverpool v Coventry; Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea; Tottenham v Barnsley

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bury v Sheffield Utd; * Crewe v Sunderland; Manchester City v Middlesbrough; Norwich v Stoke; Nottingham Forest v Stockport; Port Vale v Ipswich; Portsmouth v Charlton; Reading v Wolverhampton; Swindon v Birmingham; Tranmere v Oxford Utd; West Bromwich v Huddersfield **Second division:** * Blackpool v Preston (12.0); Bournemouth v Watford, Bristol City v Chesterfield; Grimsby v Carlisle; Luton v Bristol Rovers, Millwall v Wycombe, Northampton v Plymouth; Wigan v Brentford; Wrexham v Gillingham **Third division:** Brighton v Shrewsbury; Darlington v Scunthorpe; Exeter v Rochdale; Hartlepool v Mansfield; Leyton Orient v Hull, Macclesfield v Cardiff; Peterborough v Lincoln; Swansea v Cambridge Utd. Torquay v Notts County

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Dover v Northwich, Farnborough v Stalybridge; Halifax v Hednesford; Hayes v Rushden and Diamonds; Kidderminster v Leek. Morecambe v Kettering; Southport v Gateshead; Telford v Woking; Welling v Hereford Yeovil v Slough

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Hibernian, Dundee Utd v St Johnstone, Hearts v Rangers Kilmarnock v Aberdeen; Motherwell v Dunfermline **First division:** Falkirk v Airdrie; Greenock Morton v Stirling, Partick v Ayr; Raith v Hamilton; St Mirren v Dundee **Second division:** Brechin v Stenhousemuir, Inverness CT v Forfar, Livingston v Clyde; Queen of South v East Fife, Stranraer v Clydebank **Third division:** Albion v Arbroath; Alloa v Ross County; Cowdenbeath v Berwick; Dumbarton v East Stirling, Montrose v Queen's Park.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Italy v Ireland (in Bologna, 1.30)

HEINEKEN CUP: Semi-final: Bath v Pau.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE: Semi-finals: Agen v Newcastle (1.15); Colomiers v Stade Français

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Leicester v Harlequins (3.0) London Irish v Bristol (3.0) **Second division:** Bedford v Moseley (3.0), Blackheath v West Hartlepool (3.0); Exeter v Fylde (3.0). Orrell v Waterloo (3.0), Rotherham v Coventry (2.15), Wakefield v London Scottish (2.30)

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool St Helens v Reading (2.30); London Welsh v Otley (2.15); Lydney v Nottingham (3.0); Newbury v Morley (3.0); Rosslyn Park v Harrogate (2.30); Wharfedale v Leeds (2.15); Worcester v Rugby (2.30). **Second division north:** Aspatria v Stourbridge (2.30); Birmingham/Solihull v Sandal (2.30); Kendal v Nuneaton (2.30); Manchester v Lichfield (2.15), Preston Grasshoppers v Hinckley (2.15), Sedgley Park v Winnington Park (2.15) Walsall v Sheffield (2.30) **Second division south:** Barking v Redruth (2.15); Bridgwater v Cheltenham (3.0), Camberley v Metropolitan Police (2.30), Clifton v Esher (3.0); Havant v Henley (2.30); North Walsham v Weston-super-Mare (2.30), Tabard v Plymouth (2.15)

SWALEC CUP: Fourth round. Group A. Kenfig Hill v Treorchy; Narberth v Wrexham; Pontypridd v Bonymaen; Trimsaran v Builth Wells Group B: Cross Keys v Pontyclun; Ebbw Vale v Kidwelly; Gilfach Goch v Seven Sisters; Tonyrefail v Croesyceiliog Group C: Beddau v Cardiff Institute, Glynneath v Merthyr; Llanelli v Dunvant; Mountain Ash v Neath Athletic Group D: Cardiff v Abercarn; Carmarthen Quins v Llanharan; Newbridge v Abercwmboi; Ynysybwl v Treherbert. Group E: Abercynon v Caerphilly; Cwmgors v Porthcawl; Newport v Pwllheli, Tylorstown v South Wales Police. Group F: Cwmllynfell v Neath, Maesteg Quins v Llandovery; Morriston v Tredegar; Penygraig v Blaina. Group G: Aberavon v Bedwas; Blackwood v Maesteg, Garndiffaith v Bridgend; Ystradgynlais v Rumney Group H: Aberavon Quins v Felinfoel; Pontypool v Abertillery; Swansea v Whitland, Tondu v Pyle

TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP: First division: Boroughmuir v West of Scotland; Currie v Edinburgh Academicals. Heriot's FP v Hawick, Jed-Forest v Melrose; Stirling County v Watsonians (3.0). Second division: Gala v Preston Lodge; Glasgow Hawks v Biggar. Kelso v Kilmarnock; Musselburgh v Dundee HSFP; Peebles v Kirkcaldy Third division: Ayr v Gordonians; Glasgow Southern v Stewart's Melville FP; Grangemouth v Glenrothes; Hillhead/Jordanhill v Aberdeen GSFP; Stewartry v Selkirk

AIB LEAGUE: Second division: DLSP v Monkstown (2.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leicester Riders v Watford Royals (7.30). Worthing Bears v Birmingham Bullets (8.0)

BOXING: Commonwealth cruiserweight championship: D Corbett (Belfast, holder) v R Norton (Stourbridge) (at Maysfield Leisure Centre, Belfast)

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia international showjumping championships

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle Cobras v Bracknell Bees (6.30). Express Cup: Sheffield Steelers v Manchester Storm (7.0)

RACING: Ascot (12.35), Haydock Park (12.25) Lingfield Park (12.15), Uttoxeter (12.20).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Newcastle v Manchester Utd (4.0)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Queens Park Rangers v Bradford (1.0)

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN CUP: Semi-final: Toulouse v Brive (2.20)

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Richmond v Northampton (1.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Sheffield Sharks v Chester Jets (6.0); Birmingham Bullets v Manchester Giants (6.30); London Towers v Worthing Bears (6.0)

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia international showjumping championships

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Bracknell Bees (6.30); Newcastle Cobras v Sheffield Steelers (6.30); Cardiff Devils v Manchester Storm (7.0).

هكذا من الاصل

The fun of the cup — and £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a team and win the FA Cup league?

A £10,000 prize is up for grabs for the winner of the brand-new FA Cup league, a league within the ITF.

Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and January 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division teams.

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated.

Any team in the ITF before 12 noon last Saturday received 20 extra transfers in addition to their present allocation. From now on, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. **Entrants must be 18 years or over.**

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if appropriate, in the mini leagues — students' or women's.

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

PREMIERSHIP CLUBS IN FA CUP DRAW

Portsmouth v Aston Villa
Arsenal v Port Vale
Leicester City v Northampton Town or Basingstoke Town
Leeds United v Oxford United
Everton v Newcastle United
Liverpool v Coventry City
West Ham United v Lincoln City or Emley
Derby County v Southampton
Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham
Crystal Palace v Scunthorpe United or [illegible] Town
Torquay United or Watford v Sheffield Wednesday
Chelsea v Manchester United
Wimbledon v Wrexham
Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic
Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers
Ties to be played on January 3 and [illegible]

ITF Terms and conditions: 1 You must enter through the media channel you wish to play by. 2 Entries must comply with the specifications of the team as listed right. 3 There is no limit to the number of entries a person or household may make. 4 No responsibility is accepted for late or lost entries due to circumstances beyond our control. Indecipherable, inaudible or incomplete entries are null and void with no refund. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry. 5 The ITF committee's decision is final regarding all aspects of ITF. 6 Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). 7. Promotional and explanatory copy relating to The Times, The Sunday Times ITF in association with LineOne, the Internet and Sky Sports Interactive. 8 Players values will be reassessed at the end of January and March. 9 Official updated players/managers lists will be published in The Times. 10 The top prize goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points in the FA Cup league. In the event of there being more than one winner, a tiebreak will operate. There are no monthly prizes. 11. The top prize for the main ITF game goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points throughout the 1997-98 football season. There are also second and third place prizes. In the event of there being more than one winner in any of these positions, a tie-break will operate. 12. The manager of the month prize will go to the entrant whose team scores the most points in any one month. This applies to the main ITF game, the mini leagues and the Internet league. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a winner will be chosen at random. 13 No team will be eligible to win a prize unless they have abided by the competition rules. 14 Scores will count for the English and Scottish premier division and FA Cup/Tennents Cup (involving English and Scottish premier division teams) matches for the 1997-98 season. 15 Calls for entries should take approximately eight minutes. Calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from pay phones cost approximately double. 16. The competition is not open to employees of News International, BSkyB, their relatives, agents or agents' relatives. 17 If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points. 18 Full explanations on how your players will score points, how to transfer and how to check your score and position in the league are printed every week in The Times. 19 You may also enter a new team by LineOne, the Internet (call 0800 111 210 for details) and by Sky Sports Interactive (Sky Text page 118)

THE ITF FA CUP LEAGUE

£10,000 to the winner

HOW TO PLAY

Study the Cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team as follows:
You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.
Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your transfer allocation.
You may enter as many teams as you wish.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10 sterling and may only be made by post.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

0891 405 011
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotline, using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and follow the step-by-step instructions. You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini leagues (women's or students') if appropriate. If so, do so as directed on the telephone. You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters), your name, address with postcode and your daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score. (A new team will score points on future games in the ITF and mini league.) Calls last about eight minutes and cost 50p per minute (calls made from a pay phone cost approximately double).

In association with Line One

To enter, call

sports interactive

0891 405 011

(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ (Up to 16 characters)

Goalkeeper ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ....
Manager ☐☐☐☐☐ ....

First Name ....
Surname ....
Address ....
....
Postcode .... Daytime Tel ....
Cheque / PO No. ....

This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.
☐ Women's League ☐ Student League

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league.

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX) 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐
How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐
How often do you read The Times? Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐
Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐
If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
10601	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50
11602	O Gottskalksson	Hibernian	1.50
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00
12301	S Given	Newcastle United	3.00
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00
12601	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20503	P Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
20601	N Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
20602	R Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
20603	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00
20904	R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50
21004	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50
21404	M Ward	Everton	1.50
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00
21801	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50
21802	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	2.50
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00
22101	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
22102	G Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22103	P Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22301	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00
22302	W Barton	Newcastle United	2.00
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.00
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22803	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.00
22902	A Impey	West Ham United	1.50
22903	T Breacker	West Ham United	2.00
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
30601	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50
31201	S Pressley	Dundee United	2.00
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00
31404	C Tiler	Everton	1.50
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50
31802	G Halle	Leeds United	2.00
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00
31804	L Radebe	Leeds United	2.00
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00
30501	H Berg	Manchester United	3.50
32101	D May	Manchester United	3.50
32102	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50
32301	P Albert	Newcastle United	2.50
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00
32303	S Howey	Newcastle United	2.00
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle United	3.00
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32802	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32803	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50
32902	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham United	2.00
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50
32904	I Pearce	West Ham United	2.00
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40601	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50
40602	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40604	M Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40605	J Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00
41201	R Winters	Dundee United	3.50
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	3.50
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00
41405	J Oster	Everton	2.50
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds United	3.50
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00
41802	A Haaland	Leeds United	2.00
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds United	2.50
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds United	2.50
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.00
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	4.00
42101	D Beckham	Manchester United	8.00
42102	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00
42103	R Keane	Manchester United	5.00
42104	N Butt	Manchester United	4.00
42105	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00
42301	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.00
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.50
42303	D Batty	Newcastle United	2.50
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle United	3.00
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	6.50
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00
42403	J Thern	Rangers	3.00
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00
42505	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	2.00
42706	M Oakley	Southampton	1.50
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42803	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42804	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham United	2.50
42902	S Lomas	West Ham United	2.50
42903	J Moncur	West Ham United	2.00
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	6.00
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.00
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	5.50
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	6.00
50602	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	3.50
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton Wanderers	3.00
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00
51004	M Padovano	Crystal Palace	2.50
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00
51103	F Baiano	Derby County	4.50
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee United	4.00
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds United	3.00
51803	R Wallace	Leeds United	3.50
51804	H Kewell	Leeds United	2.00
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester United	7.50
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester United	7.00
52103	P Scholes	Manchester United	6.00
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.00
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.00
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle United	2.00
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8.50
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham Hotspur	7.50
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52803	J Dominguez	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
52901	J Hartson	West Ham United	4.50
52902	P Kitson	West Ham United	3.00
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	1.50
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
60102	A Miller	Aberdeen	1.50
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
60601	C Todd	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75
61101	J Smith	Derby County	2.50
61201	T McLean	Dundee United	2.00
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	3.50
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	3.00
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	3.00
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester United	5.00
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle United	4.00
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00
62502	R Atkinson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50
62601	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50
62802	C Gross	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00

RACING: SENOR EL BETRUTTI COULD JOIN ONE MAN AND SUNY BAY IN BOXING DAY SHOWPIECE

Greys prepare to do battle at Kempton

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

BOOKMAKERS will lay bets on a white one — but this year the odds are very much on a grey Christmas. For One Man, having assumed the mantle of Desert Orchid as a snowy blur at Kempton on Boxing Day, may now find himself part of a veritable equine blizzard when he attempts a third consecutive King George VI Chase victory.

First, Suny Bay threw down the gauntlet to his fellow grey in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury. Then, at Cheltenham on Saturday, came the romantic possibility that Senor El Betrutti might prove more lustrous than either of them.

It has long been left to housewives to admire a grey chaser; only now is everyone else catching up. Seldom has a horse jumped with a more communicable zest than did Senor El Betrutti under Graham Bradley in the Tripleprint Gold Cup.

This time, he was welcomed with a gusto that forgave his similarly exuberant success at 33-1 in the Murphy's Gold Cup the previous month. Racegoers acclaimed a horse they now knew to be one of only three trained by Susan Nock on a nearby Cotswold farm. They knew he had warmed up in midweek by having a day out with the Heythrop. At the end of a week devoted to the most sensible use of petrodollars, they knew him to be an emblem for the honest virtues of National Hunt racing.

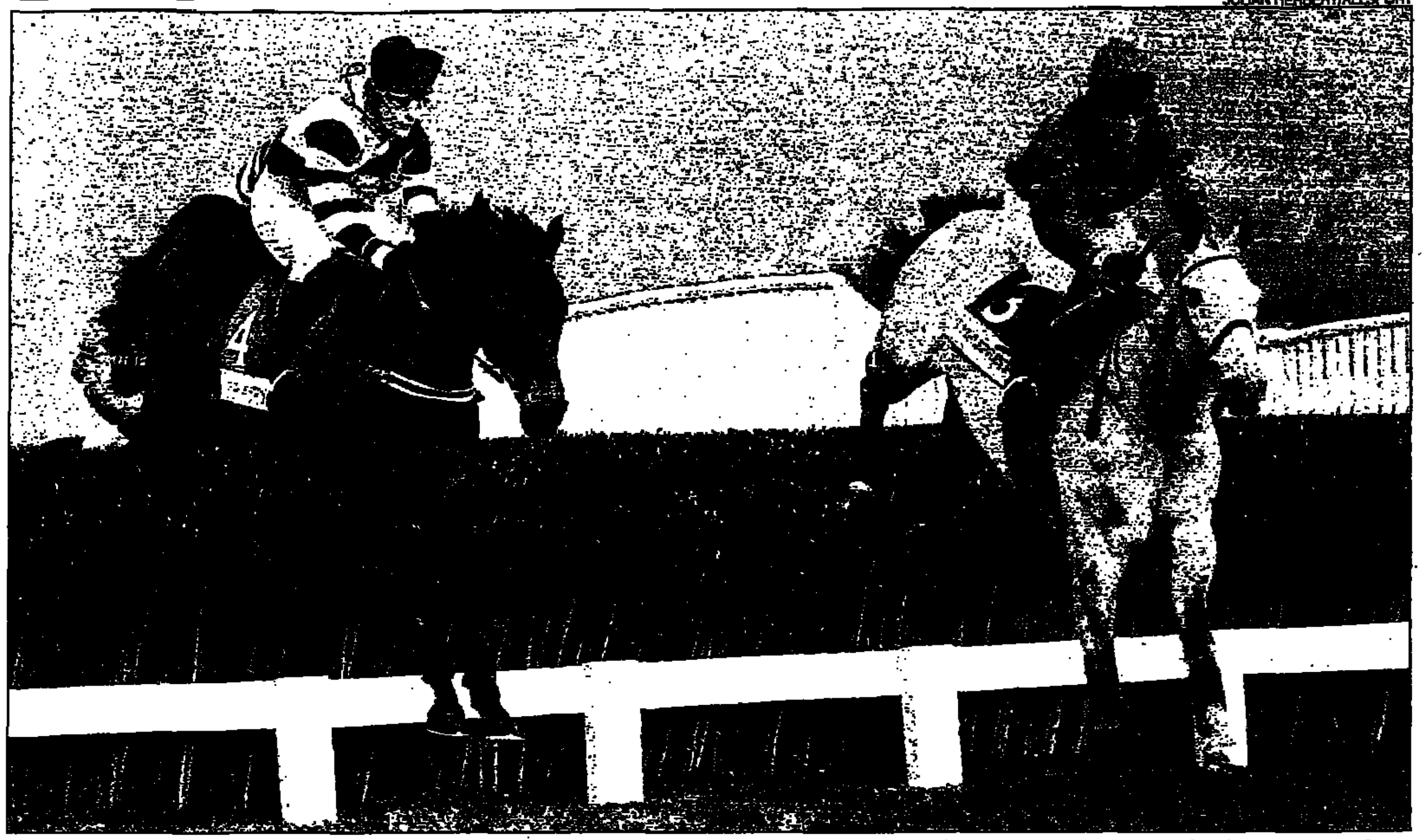
"The King George is only 12 days away, and it would be asking a lot to take on One Man at levels so soon afterwards," Mrs Nock said yesterday. "But he looks to have come out of it very well so, if the race cuts up and the ground is good, we would have to think about it.

"We went to the Hollow Bottom at Guiting Power with Nigel Twiston-Davies — drinking champagne out of the gold cup until very late — and he was saying that when your horse is on a roll, you have to make the most of it. Brad argues that he is better left-handed, and that he won't get three miles. But I'm not sure I agree with him. He certainly galloped up that hill at the end of two miles five."

It will not have escaped Bradley's attention, of course, that he would have to surrender the ride on Senor El Betrutti if he and Suny Bay were to run at Kempton (ironically, each would ordinarily be ridden by the injured Jamie Osborne). Suny Bay's participation is subject to cut in the ground and escaping whatever is ailing some of his stablemates, while Senor El Betrutti will not run if the going is soft. There remains a chance then that Bradley could yet have the decision made for him.

Yet, after the retirement of Mr Mulligan and the failure of Simply Dashing on Saturday, it is not difficult to imagine, given neutral ground, all three flamboyant greys lining up at Kempton. Coral keeps One Man as evens favourite, with Suny Bay 4-1, Barton Bank 9-2 and Senor El Betrutti 10-1 (from 25-1). Also quoted at 10-1 is Rough Quest, having shaped well on his return from injury behind The Grey Monk at Haydock on Saturday.

Imperial Call, who beat Rough Quest in the 1996 Gold Cup, will warm up for his own Christmas engagement — in the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown — by running over hurdles at Navan. Fergie Sutherland, his trainer, said: "We've decided he needs a run rather than a school, though he has recovered quickly from the muscle strain that held him up for a few days after he ran against Dorans Pride at Clonmel."


JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

The grey Senor El Betrutti has Trying Again for company on the first circuit before gaining an impressive victory at Cheltenham on Saturday

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Bessie Browne
(3.00 Warwick)

Bessie Browne, after finishing close up behind Cherrymore and Country Beau at Newbury, won well at Huntingdon. She can follow up and justify her trainer's Cheltenham Festival plans.

NB: Line Of Conquest
(1.55 Warwick)

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Rnrs since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	117	65	32	2	-0.99
D Nicholson	55	30	28	2	+8.55
Mrs M Reveley	40	22	20	5	+11.01
P Hobbs	35	27	26	2	-71.36
P Nicholls	33	22	13	4	+22.04
P Bowen	28	27	21	19	-7.77
Mrs S Smith	26	29	28	2	-29.12
K Bailey	25	17	21	10	+28.14

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	147	88	50	3	-22.23
A Maguire	82	49	38	5	+9.77
R Dunwoody	55	39	28	4	-44.71
R Johnson	51	67	51	1	-56.39
M A Fitzgerald	45	35	26	0	+48.99
P Niven	40	22	22	1	-33.34
A Thornton	40	36	48	4	-59.08
T J Murphy	32	21	11	1	+29.98

Collier Bay may switch to fences before Champion

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

OLD by name, perennially spry by nature, there is only one thing that might age him prematurely. Albeit with a suitably crumpled air, Jim Old has prevailed over some vicious misfortune in his time — even that night of despair 15 months ago, when a fire at his stables resulted in horses getting "cut to ribbons" on barbed wire, as they ran blindly loose on the Marlborough Downs.

Yet now his stoicism finally seems threatened with exhaustion. Why worry about plagues or calamity, he reasons, when you have to contend with the Race Planning Department?

It is at their whim that Collier Bay, who gave Old his finest hour in the 1996 Champion Hurdle, may be forced to prepare for this season's renewal in novice chases. At the best of times, Collier Bay's movements are restricted by a need for safe ground. Training him is a delicate balancing act — and one that Old considers the rude jolts of race planning to have rendered all but impossible.

On Saturday, Collier Bay returned to Cheltenham for his first outing since losing his crown in March. He ran a fine race, attempting to concede 8lb to the winner, Relkeel, and just missing second place in a photo-finish with Pridwell.

Having been forced to lock horns with top-class opposition on his first run back, however, he can now have just one more race over timber before the Festival.

Hence the possibility that Collier Bay may have an unconventional preparation over fences — a task for which he has, after all, always looked physically competent. "I'm going to discuss it with owner and jockey," Old said. "You can run in a novice chase every week, if you want, and then go back to hurdles before the big one to make sure the ship is still on course. That way we'd have some fun, win some prize-money and keep the wheels turning round. He'd be magic over fences, all right. But it would be a risk.

"If only they didn't make it such a struggle so that, even if the weather's in our favour, we have to slug it out against horses like Relkeel and Large Action, who have had problems of their own. All for the blessed betting industry. It just isn't fair on the horses. We're trying to get them ready for the Champion Hurdle, and they're having their heads banged together."

Old explained: "Race planning has taken away eight races that Collier Bay could formerly have run in. Nowadays we're left with two before Cheltenham, at Haydock and Sandown, and he can't run in both because they are only a week apart."

The Haydock trial, on January 24, will be Relkeel's stepping stone to the Festival. He won the same race in 1995, but had since managed just one outing prior to Saturday's impressive display. That his medical history is familiar to the Cheltenham crowd was evident in their lusty reception; happily, moreover, David Nicholson, his trainer, was able to report him "sound as a pound" yesterday morning.

WARWICK

THUNDERER

12.20 Tough Act
12.55 Shepherds Rest
1.25 Man Of The Match
1.55 Beaumont
2.30 Even Flow
3.00 Melody Maid
3.30 Above Suspicion

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.30 GRAND CRU.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING. GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.20 HAMPTON JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,774. 2m) (22 runners)

101	321	TOUGH ACT 10 (D,S) (Mrs R Doel) Mrs A Perrett 11-5	M A Fitzgerald	112
102	41	VIRTUOSO 18 (D,G) (Mrs M Devine) C Mann 11-5	R Dunwoody	122
103		APICULATE 21BF (Ace Employment) S Bowring 10-12	A Bates (5)	–
104		GLIMMERING HOPE 259F (J Lammaman) D Shaw 10-12	I Lawrence	–
105	3F	HARMONY HALL 10 (R Tooth) J Fanshawe 10-12	R Thornton	117
106		JOLI'S PRINCE 21F (Sackville House Racing) J W Payne 10-12	J Ryan	–
107		KEEN DANCER 188F (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 10-12	R Johnson	–
108		MISTRAL LORD 119F (Zephyr Racing) M Muggeridge 10-12	D Leahy	–
109		MYSTIC RIDGE 41F (P Byrne) B Curley 10-12	G Hogan (3)	–
110		PRIMERO 21F (A Harrington) A Barrow 10-12	W Marston	–
111		PRINCE CONFEY 13F (D Wintle) D Wintle 10-12	R Bellamy	–
112	3562	RAINBOW STAR 29 (A White) M Pipe 10-12	J R Kavanagh	–
113		SUPREMISM 170F (Lady Helen Smith) Mrs D Haine 10-12	G Bradley	–
114	4	THE NEGOTIATOR 17 (F Sainsbury) M Heaton-Ellis 10-12	B Powell	–
115		TIMOTHY GEORGE 48F (T Waddington) G Balding 10-12	B Fenton	–
116		BISQUET-DE-BOUCHE 156F (M Brook) R Dickin 10-7	X Aizpuru (5)	–
117	420	BLUE CHEESE 30 (Cheese Gang) J Jenkins 10-7	P Hide	–
118		FOLEYS QUEST 87F (E Houghton) J S Moore 10-7	J Magee (3)	–
119		FRENCH MIST 3F (Mrs A Upsdell) S Dow 10-7	D Bridgwater	–
120		QUIBBLING 45F (T Frost) Miss H Knight 10-7	R Farrant	–
121		SHILLING 58F (Million in Mind Partnership (7)) Miss H Knight 10-7	J Culloty	–
122		WOODLAND NYMPH 174F (Woodland Partners) D Murray Smith 10-7	A Thornton	–

BETTING: 5-2 Virtuoso, 4-1 Rainbow Star, 9-2 Tough Act, 11-2 Harmony Hall, 10-1 Keen Dancer, Mystic Ridge, 14-1 The Negotiator, 16-1 Shilling, 20-1 others.

1996: NAME OF OUR FATHER 10-12 D Walsh (33-1) P Bowen 21 ran

FORM FOCUS Tough Act beat Majesty 5l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft) with Harmony Hall (7lb better off) fell. Virtuoso beat Kingdom Emperor 4l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good) previously 30l 4th of 6 to Sound Appeal in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). Rainbow Star 2l 2nd of 13 to Thanta in chase at Auteuil (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). The Negotiator 35l 4th of 14 to Rainwatch in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft). Blue Cheese 21l 7th of 9 to Misty Cay in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm)

VIRTUOSO won with plenty in hand last time and can follow up

12.55 GOG BROOK HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,765: 2m) (6 runners)

201	2113-13	YET AGAIN 24 (D,F,G) (A Goffin) Miss G Kelleway 5-12-0	R Dunwoody	121
202	5/0066/	STATAJACK 27F (D,F,G) (D Elsworth) D Elsworth 9-11-1	G Bradley	–
203	1-5	TRUANCY 19 (D,F) (J Fuonell) C Mann 4-11-7	Mr K R O'Ryan (7)	110
204	1U220-0	SHEPHERDS REST 19 (D,S) (Odd Dozen) S Mellor 5-10-13	C Webb (5)	128
205	6/P005-	MANOLETE 308 (CD,G,S) (C Fleari) Mrs M Jones 6-10-7	D Byrne	108
206	-122236	SKRAM 12 (BF,F,G) (W P Evans & Mrs D L Weaver) R Dickin 4-10-7	X Aizpuru (5)	126

BETTING: 11-8 Yet Again, 9-2 Truancy, Skram, 6-1 Statajack, Shepherds Rest, 14-1 Manolete.

1996: SEVERN GALE 6-11-0 X Aizpuru (5-2) J Allen 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Yet Again 7½l 3rd of 5 to Ela Agapi Mou in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). Statajack 23l 6th of 8 to Keep Me In Mind in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). Truancy 18l 5th of 8 to Noble Tom in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) with Shepherds Rest (21lb better off) a distance last. Manolete a distance 5th of 16 to Cardinal Rule in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3l, good to soft). Skram 39l 6th of 10 to Crown And Cushion in handicap hurdle at Southwell (2m 4l 110yd, good)

The consistent YET AGAIN is taken to overcome top weight

1.25 BUDBROOKE NOVICES CHASE (£3,704: 3m 2f) (8 runners)

301	43-1F34	IDEAL PARTNER 7 (B,D,F,G,S) (T & J Curry) P Nicholls 8-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	102
302	/5215-7	HERHORSE 25 (G,S) (Mrs A H-Chappell) Miss A H-Chappell 10-11-7	Mr L Jefford	103
303	4P-PP5U	CUMBERLAND YOUTH 12 (Miss C Caroe) Miss C Caroe 6-11-0	D Leahy	–
304	/2421-2	DENHAM HILL 14 (S) (J Brown) C Mann 6-11-0	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
305	00/P3P:	JUNGLE KING 1094 (A Darlington) A J Wilson 8-11-0	L Harvey	–
306	003-0F3	MAN OF THE MATCH 11 (Mrs E Pearce) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0	R Farrant	98
307	0P6031'	PA D'OR 616 (F) (S Trotter Partnership) G Balding 7-11-0	S Fox	–
308	03/R11-	THE COCKERTOO 233P (G) (G Porter) R Alner 6-11-0	A Thornton	–

BETTING: 13-8 Denham Hill, 9-2 Herhorse, 5-1 Man of The Match, 6-1 The Cockertoo, 15-2 Ideal Partner, 8-1 Pa d'Or, 20-1 Jungle King, 33-1 Cumberland Youth

1996: GYSART 7-11-0 R Williamson (8-15 fav) M Pipe 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Ideal Partner 36l 4th of 8 to Boro Hill in amateur handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good). Herhorse beat Marasis 1l in 12-runner novice chase at Warwick (2m 4l 110yd, good to soft). Cumberland Youth unseated rider in novice handicap chase at Southwell (3m 110yd, good). Denham Hill 6l 2nd of 4 to Escartefigue in novice chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Jungle King pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, soft). Man Of The Match 13l 3rd of 15 to Oliver's Secret in maiden chase at Leicester (2m 7f 110yd, good). Pa D'Or beat Lanosa ¾l in 10-runner maiden hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5l 110yd, firm). The Cockertoo 14l 3rd of 21 to Splendid Thyne in NH flat race at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft)

DENHAM HILL holds sound claims in a modest race

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
T Casey	3	11	27.3	R Dunwoody	33	77	42.9
M Pipe	29	120	24.2	N Williamson	17	73	23.3
C Mann	3	13	23.1	R Johnson	8	43	18.6
D Nicholson	26	116	22.4	J Kavanagh	9	53	17.0
N Henderson	12	54	22.2	R Massey	4	26	15.4
O Sherwood	10	46	21.7	A Thornton	8	54	14.8

1.55 ETTINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,059: 2m 3f) (9 runners)

401	21211-3	MOTOQUA 58 (BF,C,F) (Mrs E Pegna & Mrs I Smith) D Nicholson 5-11-10	R Johnson	125
402	3522/1-	NOVA RUN 396 (D,F,G) (S Keeling) N Henderson 8-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	–
403	6/1P-	NOT FOR TURNING 358 (S) (C Engel) O Sherwood 6-11-3	J A McCarthy	–
404	10/U6/P	CHARMER'S WELL 9 (G,S) (Baldings (Training) Ltd) G Balding 9-11-2	S O'Shea (7)	–
405	23/323-	BEAUMONT 37F (BF) (P Cunningham) J Banks 7-11-0	N Williamson	121
406	d121-00	ISLAND VISION 18 (F) (G Roberts) J O'Shea 7-10-10	Michael Brennan (3)	111
407	5F1PU/5	BONE SETTER 26 (F,S) (Lord Leverhulme) S Mellor 7-10-6	B Powell	–
408	/0/0-P1	LINE OF CONQUEST 17 (S) (Miss C James) R Hodges 7-10-6	R Dunwoody	127
409	0P/5-1P	VITAMAN 37 (F,G) (Lankfield Kot Hill/Castletown Vits) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-4	R Farrant	[illegible]

BETTING: 5-2 Line Of Conquest, 7-2 Motoqua, 4-1 Nova Run, 7-1 Beaumont, Vitaman, 8-1 Not For Turning, 14-1 Island Vision, 33-1 others.

1996: REAGANESQUE 4-11-8 J R Kavanagh (3-1) P Murphy 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Motoqua 6¾l 3rd of 9 to Flying Fiddler in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good). Nova Run beat Severn Gale 6l in 11-runner amateur handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm). Not For Turning pulled up in grade II novice hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good to firm), previously beat Royal Event neck in 16-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft) with Line Of Conquest (11lb better off) 20l 9th. Beaumont 1¾l 3rd of 16 to Silly Money in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Island Vision 26l 7th of 8 to Sand Ciel in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good). Line Of Conquest beat Bombadil 29l in 12-runner maiden hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). Vitaman pulled up in grade II novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, soft); previously beat Drakestone neck in 12-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4l 110yd, good)

VITAMAN, pulled up in soft going last time, could appreciate this better ground

2.30 STONELEIGH HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,379: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

501	21/1-31	LARRY'S LORD 19 (CD,F,G,S) (Blackwell/Corry/Nichols) P Nicholls 8-12-0	P Hide	129
502	13PP5-1	OVER THE POLE 187 (D,F,G) (Pell Mell Ptnrs) P Cheesbrough 10-11-6	Mr C Bonner (3)	135
503	P/4633-	STOP THE WALLER 362 (D,G,S) (R Burgan) J Bradley 8-11-3	R Johnson	117
504	1263/1/	EVEN FLOW 775 (D,F,S) (A Wates) T Casey 8-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
505	U0P-565	NICKLE JOE 7 (B,CD,F,G,S) (M Tate) M Tate 11-10-0	Mr O McPhail (7)	128

BETTING: 7-4 Larry's Lord, 2-1 Over The Pole, 4-1 Even Flow, 6-1 Stop The Waller, 14-1 Nickle Joe.

1996: REX TO THE RESCUE 8-10-9 Mr R Thornton (4-1) R Alner 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Larry's Lord beat Pete The Parson a distance in 6-runner handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Over The Pole beat Mine's An Ace 7l in 5-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good to firm). Stop The Waller 25l 3rd of 10 to Penuna Pride in handicap chase at Bangor (4m 1f, good to soft). Even Flow beat Simply George 12l in 5-runner novice chase at Kempton (2m 4l 110yd, good to firm). Nickle Joe 53l 5th of 8 to Boro Hill in handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good).

LARRY'S LORD can defy top weight but Even Flow will be dangerous if fit

3.00 HOECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£3,280: 2m 4f 110yd) (16 runners)

601	314-441	BESSIE BROWNE 20 (G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-11-3	R Thornton	110
602	3	COOL SPRING 26 (S Lambert) T Forster 5-10-10	A Thornton	99
603	4/3	DARK ROMANCE 39 (A Goldson) Miss Z Davison 8-10-10	R Dunwoody	90
604	0-6	GEISHA 19 (G Gregory) N Babbage 5-10-10	W Marston	68
605	00-	GOBALINO GIRL 270 (F Gray) F Gray 5-10-10	G Hogan (3)	77
606	12421-4	KINNAHALLA 19 (BF,G,S) (R Spencer) G Balding 5-10-10	B Fenton	–
607	2116-2	MELODY MAID 14 (BF,F,G) (R Parish) N Henderson 5-10-10	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
608	40632/6	MISS BRECKNELL 11 (Wilsford Racing Inc) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-10	R Farrant	88
609	40005-5	NIGHT ESCAPADE 171 (A Chadwick) C Weedon 5-10-10	M Richards	85
610	00-P	OVERRUNNING 29 (R Matthews) A H Harvey 5-10-10	T Jenks	76
611	3	POSH SPICE 87 (E Thorbek) N Henderson 6-10-10	J R Kavanagh	–
612	2/131-	RURAL RUN 210 (S) (Trading Thoroughbreds) P Nicholls 6-10-10	L Cummins (5)	–
613	/F3453-	SEPTEMBER BREEZE 273 (BEST Racing) J O'Shea 6-10-10	Michael Brennan (3)	110
614	004/F	SOUTHWICK PARK 10 (D Hunt) M Sheppard 5-10-10	B Powell	–
615	0-004	TAWNY WARBLER 20 (Mrs P Robeson) Mrs P Robeson 5-10-10	J A McCarthy	96
616	0-04F	THE LADY SCORES 26 (A Lousada) K Bailey 5-10-10	N Williamson	70

BETTING: 7-2 Melody Maid, 4-1 Dark Romance, 5-1 Bessie Browne, 7-1 Kinnahalla, 8-1 The Lady Scores, Cool Spring, 10-1 Posh Spice, 12-1 Rural Run, 14-1 others

1996: KONVEKTA QUEEN 5-10-10 J Osborne (11-4 jt-fav) O Sherwood 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Bessie Browne beat Madam Muck 1½l in 10-runner mares novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good) with Tawny Warbler (7lb better off) 8¾l 4th. Cool Spring 8½l 3rd of 16 to Latin Mistress in mares NH flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, good). Dark Romance 7l 3rd of 9 to Chastleton in mares novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft) with Tawny Warbler (same terms) 23l 7th. Kinnahalla 31l 4th of 8 to Kentish Bard in NH flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft). Melody Maid 1¾l 2nd of 10 to Silent Cracker in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good). Miss Brecknell 29l 6th of 7 to Halona in mares handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). Posh Spice 6l 3rd of 11 to Latin Mistress in NH flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm). Rural Run beat Bavard Jet 5l in 11-runner NH flat race at Roscommon (2m, soft)

BESSIE BROWNE boasts solid form and is fancied to defy her penalty

3.30 TEMPLE GRAFTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,640: 2m 3f) (18 runners)

1	F/5F-4	SHADIRWAN 11 (C Batt) J Akehurst 6-11-13	G Bradley	87
2	6/0300-	GRAND CRU 58F (A Spargo Ltd) J Cullinan 6-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
3	566	ELA-YIE-MOU 23 (Hatfield Ltd) S Dow 4-11-5	N Williamson	98
4	045-240	I RECALL 16 (V) (Mrs S Coplestone) P Hayward 6-11-1	B Fenton	99
5	800-604	ABOVE SUSPICION 32 (Mrs J Humphreys) E L James 5-10-13	J R Kavanagh	104
6	00-450	KNIGHTSBRIDGE GIRL 9 (B) (Knightsbridge BC) I Williams 6-10-12	R Johnson	79
7	045P-00	IMPENDING DANGER 11 (Dallagh Construction) K Bridgwater 4-10-10	D Bridgwater	109
8	323540-	WANSTEAD 230 (T Quesley) J Jenkins 5-10-10	R Dunwoody	90
9	0/F450-	ERNEST WILLIAM 374 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-10-7	Michael Brennan (3)	78
10	2033F4-	POSITIVO 206 (L Gilbert) Miss C Caroe 6-10-5	D Leahy	103
11	530000-	MAZIRAH 171F (B) (M Appleby) R Curtis 6-10-4	D Morris	92
12	/P000-P	YOUNG TYCOON 40 (A Darlington) A J Wilson 6-10-0	L Harvey	–
13	/AU8/0-	MISTY GREY 554 (G Fierro) G Fierro 8-10-0	R Farrant	–
14	/00P5-0	LUDO'S ORCHESTRA 30 (B & Dame S Noakes) M Campion 6-10-0	B Powell	60
15	P406016	CHILLY LAD 16 (D,F) (Mrs H Mobley) Mrs H Mobley 6-10-0	Mr A Charles-Jones	94
16	P/04F0/	PORTOLANO 513F (T Pooley) B Baugh 6-10-0	Gary Lyons	–
17	3/0P0P-	THE CHEESE BARON 360 (T Sydor & S Oliver) S Mellor 6-10-0	C Webb (5)	60
18	5/UF0-0	THE WEATHERMAN 20 (B) (Mrs G Jessop) A Jessop 9-10-0	R Massey (3)	62

Long handicap: Chilly Lad 9-13, Portolano 9-9, The Cheese Baron 9-5, The Weatherman 9-2

BETTING: 4-1 Shadirwan, 13-2 Above Suspicion, 7-1 Ela-Yie-Mou, Knightsbridge Girl, Chilly Lad, 8-1 Positivo, 10-1 Wanstead, 12-1 others.

1996: LETS BE FRANK 5-11-4 R Johnson (6-5 fav) N Chance 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Shadirwan 16l 4th of 16 to Shahrur in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). Grand Cru 65l 13th of 19 to Boston Man in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 5f, good). Ela-Yie-Mou 42l 6th of 10 to Zaalasia in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). I Recall 37l 9th of 14 to Polydamas in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m, soft). Above Suspicion 6¾l 4th of 14 to Two To Tango in maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). Knightsbridge Girl 37l 7th of 10 to Amici Sod II in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft). Wanstead 31l 9th of 10 to Chief Mouse in novice handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m, good to firm). Positivo 24l 4th of 12 to Jamaican Flight in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good). Chilly Lad 28l 6th of 13 to Elhanseio in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft).

KNIGHTSBRIDGE GIRL, who lost ground at the start last time, is a tentative choice

☐ Luso, trained by Clive Brittain, emulated last year's success in the £289,332 Hong Kong International Vase over 1½ miles at Sha Tin yesterday. Michael Kinane's mount led home the Paul Cole-trained Posidonas by a head.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

12.40 Barton Black. 1.15 Purevalue. 1.45 Dan De Man. 2.15 DOUBLE AGENT (nap). 2.50 Corston Joker. 3.20 George Dillingham.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.40 POLYFLOR AND NEWCASTLE FLOORING NOVICES HURDLE (£2,327: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

1	3F01	ARDENT SCOUT 18 (D,G) Mrs S Smith 5-11-6	R Guest	106
2	5-12	HOPEFUL LORD 37 (D,F) P Cheesbrough 5-11-5	A S Smith	[illegible]
3	0	BARTON BLACK 68 S Brookshaw 5-10-12	S Wynne	–
4	F04	BRAVE EDWIN 12 C Grant 7-10-12	R Garritty	100
5	0-00	CLERICAL COUSIN 9 L Lungo 8-10-12	R Supple	47
6	6/F-	FOREVER SHY 428 Mrs K Lamb 9-10-12	Miss S Lamb (7)	–
7	5600	KNAYTON KNIGHT 12 J Jefferson 4-10-12	E Callaghan	74
8	/5-U	NOBLE NORMAN 7 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-12	P Niven	–
9	120-	TOM'S RIVER 258 (S) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12	G Lee	–
10	P	ALLMERE 62 I Park 6-10-7	N Smith	–
11	0-	FLOSS THE BOSS 259 Mrs J Brown 4-10-7	B Storey	–
12	-040	GAUTBY HENPECKED 25 G M Moore 4-10-7	N Bentley	–
13	-000	POLITICAL MANDATE 23 R Nixon 4-10-7	C McCormack (5)	101

11-10 Hopeful Lord, 7-2 Ardent Scout, 8-1 Noble Norman, 10-1 Tom's River, 12-1 Barton Bank, Brave Edwin, 14-1 Clerical Cousin, 20-1 others.

1.15 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT WHISKY NOVICES CHASE (£3,518: 3m) (9)

1	POPP	AHBEJAYBUS 5 (B) Miss L Siddall 8-10-12	T Reed	–
2	/45P	HICKSONS CHOICE 25 J Wade 9-10-12	K Johnson	–
3	2/5	MADE OF STEEL 21 Mrs A Naughton 8-10-12	J Supple	95
4	221/	MASTER NOVA 633 (S) M Camacho 7-10-12	P Niven	–
5	-364	MENALDI 16 P Cheesbrough 7-10-12	R Supple	–
6	1-U2	PUREVALUE 9 (D,F,G,S) M W Easterby 6-10-12	P Carberry	[illegible]
7	413/	RADICAL CHOICE 657 (G) J Charlton 8-10-12	B Storey	–
8	/2-3	TRUE SCOT 30 (D,G,S) P Cheesbrough 7-10-12	A S Smith	–
9	0-5F	GAME POINT 6 D Lamb 6-10-7	J Burke	–

4-5 Purevalue, 5-1 Master Nova, 8-1 True Scot, 10-1 Menaldi, Radical Choice, 12-1 Game Point, 20-1 Hicksons Choice, Made Of Steel, 66-1 Ahbejaybus.

1.45 NEWCASTLE FLOORING AND HALSTEADS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,935: 2m) (10)

1	311-	KIRSTENBOSCH 203 (F,G) L Lungo 10-12-0	W Dowling (7)	87
2	0P-1	COMMON SOUND 14 (D,S) J Barclay 6-11-12	C McCormack (5)	90
3	33/5	MAJAL 7 (D,F) J Wainwright 8-11-11	P Midgley (3)	–
4	/0/0	SALINGER 21 (D,G,S) J Parkes 9-11-9	R Guest	–
5	6/06	GENERAL'S ORDERS 25 (D,F,S) J Turner 6-10-13	R Supple	63
6	22U-	THE BOOZING BRIEF 225F (B) C Parker 4-10-12	B Storey	–
7	0-12	BOYZONTOOWA 18 (BF,F) W Storey 5-10-10	M Moloney	[illegible]
8	P66-	DENTICULATA 279 (F,G) P Spottiswood 9-10-8	K Johnson	80
9	-3P8	DAN DE MAN 9 Miss L Siddall 6-10-0	M Foster	83
10	0650	RUBISLAW 7 Mrs K Lamb 5-10-0	Miss S Lamb (7)	78

5-2 Boyzontoowa, 11-4 Common Sound, 3-1 Kirstenbosch, 10-1 Dan De Man, 14-1 The Boozing Brief, Denticulata, 16-1 Majal, General's Orders, 20-1 others

2.15 GLENDEE ENGINEERING HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,274: 2m 4f) (5)

1	111/	GREAT EASEBY 58F (C,D,G,S) W Storey 7-12-0	R McGrath (3)	–
2	65-3	UNCLE DOUG 28 (C,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-11	P Niven	127
3	P-F6	MARCHANT MING 9 (V,G,S) M Hammond 5-11-5	R Garritty	117
4	5-03	DOUBLE AGENT 16 (G,S) J Howard Johnson 4-10-3	P Carberry	132
5	-461	BRANCHER 27 (D,F,G,S) J Turner 6-10-0	R Supple	[illegible]

2-1 Great Easeby, 9-4 Uncle Doug, 3-1 Brancher, 11-2 Double Agent, 16-1 Marchant Ming

2.50 OMNICOM HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,338: 2m 4f) (4)

1	2-35	KENMORE-SPEED 16 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 10-11-10	R Guest	137
2	1/FP	ISSYIN 9 (B,D,F,G,S) M W Easterby 10-11-5	R Garritty	–
3	411-	CROSSHOT 275 (C,F,G,S) R McDonald 10-10-9	J Supple	130
4	P-11	CORSTON JOKER 23 (CD,F,G) L Lungo 7-10-4	R Supple	[illegible]

13-8 Kenmore-Speed, 9-4 Corston Joker, 3-1 Crosshot, 11-2 Issyin.

3.20 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,274: 2m) (12)

1		ALPINE PANTHER 39F Mrs M Reveley 4-10-12	P Niven	–
2	F-00	CHAN MOVE 12 W Smith 5-10-12	S Taylor (5)	82
3	0	DOCTOR BRAVIOUS 34 B Ellison 4-10-12	E Callaghan	–
4	25/	GEORGE DILLINGHAM 600F D Smith 7-10-12	L Wyer	–
5	04	MONIS 21 B Ellison 6-10-12	C McCormack (5)	93
6	0	MOTOOBIG 51 P Cheesbrough 5-10-12	A S Smith	–
7	5300	PERSUASIVE TALENT 12 D Lamb 6-10-12	J Burke	70
8		RAWI 52F J Charlton 4-10-12	B Storey	–
9	0P	TAKE NOTICE 14 (V) M Wane 4-10-12	J Supple	–
10	F5-	THORNWOOD 261 J Oliver 5-10-12	S Melrose (7)	–
11	2-52	VADLAWYS 16 S Brookshaw 6-10-12	S Wynne	[illegible]
12		VINDALOO 16F M Johnston 5-10-12	D Gallagher	–

11-10 Vadlawys, 11-4 Alpine Panther, 6-1 George Dillingham, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

NEWCASTLE: Trainers: J Jefferson, 10 winners from 35 runners, 28.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 39 from 162, 24.1%; Mrs J Brown, 4 from 19, 21.1%; C Parker, 8 from 39, 20.5%; M W Easterby, 11 from 58, 19.0%; P Cheesbrough, 12 from 82, 14.6%. Jockeys: P Niven, 41 winners from 138 rides, 29.7%; P Carberry, 6 from 29, 20.7%; D Gallagher, 3 from 17, 17.6%; R Garritty, 13 from 81, 16.0%; L Wyer, 15 from 94, 16.0%; T Reed, 13 from 84, 15.5%.

NEWTON ABBOT: Trainers: P Rich, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%; D Nicholson, 9 from 23, 39.1%; Miss V Williams, 3 from 8, 37.5%; P Hobbs, 55 from 182, 30.2%; M Pipe, 108 from 391, 27.6%; J Old, 9 from 33, 27.3%. Jockeys: Mr S Durack, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; A McCoy, 60 from 179, 33.5%; G Tormey, 7 from 41, 17.1%; C Maude, 16 from 122, 13.1%; S McNeill, 7 from 70, 10.0%

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newcastle: 1.15 Ahbejaybus, 2.15 Marchant Ming, 3.20 Take Notice. Newton Abbot: 1.05 Cool Cat. Warwick: 2.30 Nickle Joe, 3.30 Knightsbridge Girl, Mazirah, The Weatherman.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER

12.30 Indian Arrow. 1.05 Ultimate Smoothie. 1.35 Supreme Lady. 2.05 Silverino. 2.40 Belmorebruno. 3.10 Galapino. 3.40 Mister Sandrovitch.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

12.30 JINGLE BELLS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,842: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1	-324	NORTHERN SADDLER 11 (CD,F,G,S) R Hodges 10-12-0	A P McCoy
2	014-	INDIAN ARROW 282 (BF,CD,F,S) M Pipe 9-11-12	C Maude
3	-1F4	THURSDAY NIGHT 18 (BF,C,F,S) P Nicholls 6-11-9	Mr J Tizzard (5)
4	2P-3	WELL TIMED 14 (CD,S) R Frost 7-11-2	J Frost
5	222-	WINSPIT 261 (D,F,S) R Alner 7-10-7	Mr S Durack (5)
6	P42-	FINNIGAN FREE 208 G Ham 7-10-3	Mr M Frith (7)
7	2-P3	ROBINS PRIDE 16 (D,G,S) C Popham 7-10-3	T Dascombe
8	P-00	MISTRESS ROSIE 40 (CD,F,S) M Hill 10-10-0	Mr R Widger (5)
9	232P	TANGO'S DELIGHT 84 (S) R Baker 9-10-0	V Slattery

5-2 Indian Arrow, 4-1 Robins Pride, 11-2 Thursday Night, 6-1 Northern Saddler, 7-1 Well Timed, 8-1 Winspit, 10-1 Finnigan Free, 16-1 others.

1.05 LES SEWARD MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,169: 2m 1f) (11)

1	10-4	ULTIMATE SMOOTHIE 60 (BF,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-10	A P McCoy
2	20-1	ALPINE JOKER 33 (G) P Hobbs 4-10-11	Mr R Widger (7)
3	20-4	SUNLEY SECURE 10 N Chance 4-10-9	Mr S Durack (5)
4	2U45	RYTHM ROCK 9 (B) D Gandolfo 6-10-3	Sophie Mitchell (5)
5	00-6	PERFECT PAL 11 (F,S) M J Weeden 6-10-1	P Holley
6	P-BF	RICH TYCOON 11 P Rich 8-10-0	M Griffiths (7)
7	/4P-	PRINCE EQUINAME 234 A Newcombe 5-10-0	T Dascombe
8	636-	MUTAWALI 371 (D,F) R Baker 7-10-0	V Slattery
9	1-36	ALICE'S MIRROR 10 (B,CD,F,G,S) K Bishop 8-10-0	R Greene
10	P-P0	COOL CAT 56 (B) J Tuck 6-10-0	S McNeill
11	0535	NEVEROLD 21 (S) M Muggeridge 7-10-0	S Curran

2-1 Ultimate Smoothie, 11-4 Alpine Joker, 7-1 Sunley Secure, 8-1 Rythm Rock, 10-1 Perfect Pal, 12-1 Rich Tycoon, 14-1 Mutawali, Alice's Mirror, 25-1 others.

1.35 E B F TATTERSALLS IRELAND MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE (£3,599: 2m 5f 110yd) (10)

1	0U1-	STRAY HARMONY 208 (G) R Smith 7-11-3	Mr J Tizzard (5)
2	U-54	BRIDEPARK ROSE 10 (S) M Muggeridge 9-10-10	C Maude
3	0-2U	CAMILLAS LEGACY 10 H Cole 6-10-10	T Dascombe
4	/41-	CHURCHTOWN CHANCE 274P (G,S) C Popham 7-10-10	G Tormey
5	50-0	DUNNICKS COUNTRY 27 F Tucker 7-10-10	M Griffiths (7)
6	-556	FORTYTWO DEE 9 N Smith 7-10-10	M Sharratt
7	42-3	PEARL'S CHOICE 12 J McConnochie 9-10-10	S McNeill
8	F-2P	SEYMOURSWIFT 20 (S) D Gandolfo 7-10-10	A P McCoy
9	104-	SUPREME LADY 240 (G,S) Miss H Knight 6-10-10	J F Titley
10	S/	WATERROW 1454 H Day 9-10-10	Mr R White (5)

5-2 Supreme Lady, 4-1 Pearl's Choice, 9-2 Camillas Legacy, 5-1 Bridepark Rose, Seymourswift, 10-1 Churchtown Chance, 16-1 Fortytwo Dee, 33-1 others

2.05 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,553: 2m 5f 110yd) (8)

1	13-6	SILVERINO 4 (C,G,S) P Rodford 11-11-13	S Burrough
2	AJ-6	PERSIAN SWORD 20 (G,S) D Nicholson 11-11-12	Mr R Barton (7)
3	3100	CHICKABIDDY 18 (F,G) G Edwards 9-11-7	Mr S Durack (5)
4	U1-3	HOLD YOUR RANKS 27 (S) R Frost 10-11-6	J Frost
5	512-	RED LIGHTER 275 (BF,S) J Old 8-11-5	C Llewellyn
6	5-34	JAILBREAKER 18 (C,D,G,S) B Millman 10-11-4	D Salter (5)
7	25-0	FIDDLERS PIKE 31 (G,S) Mrs R Henderson 16-11-1	Mrs R Henderson
8	0542	GLEN MIRAGE 10 (D,F,G,S) M Coombe 12-10-13	Miss M Coombe

9-4 Hold Your Ranks, 5-2 Red Lighter, 7-1 Persian Sword, Jailbreaker, 8-1 Chickabiddy, Glen Mirage, 12-1 Fiddlers Pike, 14-1 Silverino

2.40 CHRISTMAS PUDDING NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,211: 3m 3f) (7)

1	P-13	LAUREN'S TREASURE 10 (CD,F) Mrs S Williams 6-11-5	S McNeill
2	0132	SPIRIT LEVEL 68 (CD,F) J R Payne 9-11-0	Mr S Durack (5)
3	3-	BELMOREBRUNO 383 M Pipe 7-10-12	A P McCoy
4	/F30	EMPEROR BUCK 10 (F) D Nicholson 9-10-12	Mr R Barton (7)
5	0-55	NU-TADR 54 R Baker 5-10-12	V Slattery
6	A/F3	SAXON DUKE 20 (BF,S) P Hobbs 8-10-12	G Tormey
7	00-P	SEE MINNOW 27 Miss S Waterman 4-10-7	N Willmington (7)

11-10 Belmorebruno, 7-2 Saxon Duke, 6-1 Lauren's Treasure, 7-1 Spirit Level, Emperor Buck, 33-1 Nu-Tadr, See Minnow

3.10 TWO MAGPIES NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,148: 2m 1f) (5)

1	15	KEN RISK 31 (F) M Pipe 5-11-5	A P McCoy
2	P	DERBY GILCHREEST 10 R Frost 5-10-12	J Frost
3	3R	EASTDON GOLD DUST 14 A Hobbs 4-10-12	C Maude
4	3	EFFECTUAL 54 Miss V Williams 4-10-12	S Kelly (7)
5		GALAPINO 37F Gay Kelleway 4-10-12	Mr S Durack (5)

7-4 Galapino, 15-8 Ken Risk, 9-4 Effectual, 16-1 Eastdon Gold Dust, 50-1 Derby Gilchreest

3.40 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,131: 2m 1f) (13)

1		BRUSH OFF Miss H Knight 4-11-4	J F Titley
2	0	DARK MAURADER 27 R Frost 4-11-4	J Frost
3		MISTER SANDROVITCH Miss V Williams 4-11-4	A P McCoy
4		MR JOLIBEAR R Frost 5-11-4	T O'Connor (7)
5	P2-	NICE APPROACH 261P R Hodges 4-11-4	Mr J Crowley (7)
6	0-4	OUR MAN FLIN 27 Dr D Chesney 4-11-4	P Holley
7	0	SANDORAN 27 M Hill 4-11-4	Mr R Widger (5)
8	0	VELLATOR 27 A Dunn 5-11-4	Mr R White (5)
9	88	WINNING TOWN 7 P Ferrell 4-11-4	Guy Lewis (3)
10		BA SERENDIPITY M Usher 4-10-13	Mr S Durack (5)
11	0	FLYING ARTIST 19 B Millman 5-10-13	D Salter (5)
12		NORA FOGHERTY H Day 6-10-13	C Maude
13	0	TAKETHETOPOFF 27 A Hobbs 4-10-13	G Shenkin (7)

7-4 Brush Off, 15-8 Mister Sandrovitch, 100-30 Nice Approach, 14-1 others.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Cheltenham

Going: good

12.45 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Kibreet (R Dunwoody, 7-2); 2, Seek The Faith (9-1); 3, Arctic Kinsman (11-8 fav). 4 ran. 1¾l, 2½l. P Hobbs. Tote: £4.20. DF: £14.30. CSF: £21.29.

1.20 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Daraydan (A P McCoy, 2-1); 2, Mighty Moss (7-4 fav); 3, Red Raja (14-1). 4 ran. NR: Red Blazer. 4l, 11l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.60. DF: £2.40. CSF: £5.51.

1.55 (2m 5f ch) 1, Northern Starlight (A P McCoy, 7-4); 2, Escartefigue (4-7 fav); 3, Clever Remark (20-1). 3 ran. NR: Edgemoor Prince. 1¾l, dist. M Pipe. Tote: £2.50. DF: £1.10. CSF: £2.88.

2.30 (2m 5f ch) 1, Senor El Betrutti (G Bradley, 9-1); 2, Challenger Du Luc (6-1); 3, Bells Life (25-1). Simply Dashing 2-1 fav. 9 ran. 8l, 2½l. Mrs S Nock. Tote: £8.70; £2.00, £2.00, £3.70. DF: £18.20. Trio: £129.10. CSF: £53.89. Tricast: £1,183.41

3.05 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Relkeel (R Johnson, 8-1); 2, Pridwell (13-8 fav); 3, Collier Bay (7-2). 8 ran. 1¾l, sh hd. D Nicholson. Tote: £7.80; £1.80, £1.40, £1.70. DF: £9.10. CSF: £20.22.

3.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Lord Jim (M A Fitzgerald, 9-1); 2, Promalee (6-4 fav); 3, Easy Feelin (7-2). 8 ran. ½l, 3l. J Old. Tote: £8.40; £2.30, £1.20, £1.60. DF: £10.20. Trio: £19.60. CSF: £21.84.

Jackpot: £15,848.40.

Placepot: £278.00 Quadpot: £17.30.

Doncaster

12.05 1, Sounds Like Fun (8-11 fav); 2, Fry-up Satellite (6-1); 3, Dandie Imp (10-1). 6 ran.

12.38 1, Hazard A Guess (11-1); 2, Gone For A Burton (8-1); 3, General Haven (50-1). Vendian 4-1 fav. 18 ran.

1.10 1, Dana Point (8-1); 2, Jackson Park (9-1); 3, Crandon Boulevard (11-2). Disallowed 3-1 fav. 9 ran.

1.40 1, Domaine De Pron (7-1); 2, Father Sky (9-1); 3, Jultara (3-1 fav). 7 ran.

2.10 1, New Inn (2-1); 2, Star Rage (8-11 fav); 3, Karshi (7-1). 4 ran.

2.45 1, Desert Brave (6-1); 2, Global Legend (5-1); 3, Element Of Risk (33-1). Classy Lad 1-2 fav. 7 ran.

3.20 1, Sweep Gently (16-1); 2, Queensway (3-1 fav); 3, Memsahib Ofesteem (9-1). 18 ran.

Haydock Park

12.40 1, French Holly (8-11 fav); 2, Foundry Lane (3-1); 3, Ballad Minstrel (10-1). 16 ran.

1.15 1, Sarmageera Boy (4-1); 2, Flying Instructor (2-1 fav); 3, Native Mission (5-2). 5 ran.

1.45 1, Thrower (10-1); 2, Nigel's Lad (3-1); 3, Master Beveled (14-1). 8 ran.

2.15 1, The Grey Monk (8-13 fav); 2, Rough Quest (3-1); 3, Coulton (5-1). 4 ran. NR: Marcell.

2.50 1, Splendid Thyne (9-4 fav); 2, Campaign (4-1); 3, Prussia (14-1). 9 ran.

3.25 1, Aika International (15-8 jt-fav); 2, Quango (4-1); 3, Riverbank Rose (15-8 jt-fav). 4 ran. NR: Skram.

Lingfield Park

12.30 1, Tuscany Highway (12-1); 2, Riparius (7-4 jt-fav); 3, Harbet House (4-1). Cool Gunner 7-4 jt-fav. 6 ran.

1.00 1, Monks Soham (3-1); 2, Teinein (5-2); 3, Cariboo Gold (7-2). Sophie May 9-4 fav. 4 ran.

1.30 1, Buddy Marvel (4-7 fav); 2, Amitge (2-1); 3, Zatarelli (50-1). 5 ran.

2.00 1, Fiddling The Facts (11-4); 2, Ottowa (13-8 fav); 3, Joker Jack (100-1). 5 ran.

2.35 1, Sail By The Stars (5-2 jt-fav); 2, Kamikaze (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Miss Diskin (9-1). Flippance 5-2 jt-fav. 5 ran.

3.10 1, Fire Ball (4-6 fav); 2, Limit The Damage (6-1); 3, Just Nip (20-1). 14 ran.

3.40 1, Hendy Lass (7-2); 2, Ivory Coaster (11-4); 3, Tickerty's Gift (3-1). Bowcliffe Court 5-2 fav. 5 ran.

Wolverhampton

7.00 1, Stage Whisper (5-2 fav); 2, Oismat (20-1); 3, Heathyards Sheik (4-1). 13 ran.

7.30 1, Gralmano (2-1); 2, Classy Cleo (11-10 fav); 3, One Singer (9-2). 6 ran.

8.00 1, Mafia (7-2 jt-fav); 2, Ultra Beet (20-1); 3, Takhlid (12-1). Eastern Prophets 7-2 jt-fav. 13 ran.

8.30 1, Democrat (6-5 fav); 2, Oneforthe-ditch (7-2); 3, Toujours Riviera (10-1). 10 ran.

9.00 1, Etamine (25-1); 2, Pearl Anniversary (20-1); 3, Anjou (4-7 fav). 9 ran.

9.30 1, Wildmoor (8-1); 2, Moonraking (3-1 fav); 3, Skelton Sovereign (25-1). 11 ran. NR: Tabasco Jazz.

RACELINE
0930 168+
COMMENTARY RESULTS
NEWCASTLE 101 201
WARWICK 102 202
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FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): New York Giants 30 Washington 10, Pittsburgh 24 New England 21 (OT)

BADMINTON

JAKARTA: World Grand Prix Singles: Men: Semi-finals: Dong Jiong (China) bt P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-9, 15-7 Sun Jun (China) bt P Gade-Christensen (Den) 15-10, 17-15, 15-6 Final: Sun bt Dong 15-9, 15-6 Women: Semi-finals: S Susanti (Indo) bt Gong Zhichao (China) 11-8, 11-4; Ye Zhaoying (China) bt Wang Chen (China) 11-6, 11-4 Final: Ye bt Susanti 11-4, 11-4

BOBSLEIGHING

LA PLAGNE, France: World Cup: Two-man: 1, Canada I (P Lueders and R Greenidge) (59.33sec, 59.64) 1min 58.97sec; 2, Germany II (D Wiese and M Jakobs) (59.61, 59.53) 1:59.14; 3, Italy I (G Huber and A Tartaglia) (59.50, 59.70) 1:59.20; 4, Canada II (C Lori and D MacEachern) (59.71, 59.54) 1:59.25; 5, Switzerland I (R Goetschi and G Acklin) (59.48, 59.77) 1:59.25. Leading World Cup positions (after six races): 1, Lueders 140pts; 2, Huber 128; 3, Langen 117; 4, Shimer 109; 5, Prusis 103. Four-man: 1, Germany I (H Czudaj driver) (57.69, 57.98) 1:55.67; 2, Germany II (C Langen) (57.69, 58.13) 1:55.82; 3, Great Britain I (S Olsson) (57.72, 58.14) 1:55.86; 4, Latvia I (S Prusis) (57.75, 58.14) 1:55.89; 5, Switzerland II (R Goetschi) (57.83, 58.28) 1:58.11.

BOXING

SHEFFIELD: World Boxing Organisation middleweight championship (vacant): O Grant (Can) bt R Rhodes (Sheffield) pts International Boxing Federation intercontinental light-heavyweight championship: M Prince (Tottenham) bt W Hankins (US) rsc 3rd Light-middleweight (8rnds): H Simon (Nam) bt K Kahau (Doncaster) rsc 4th Welterweight (4rnds): A Farrell (Manchester) bt P Scott (Newcastle) rsc 3rd, (4rnds): H Kyvelos (Can) bt H Butler (Worcester) pts Light-welterweight: (4rnds) J Hare (Roverstown) bt K Konsantonis (Potters Bar) rsc 3rd; (4rnds): J Khaliq (Nottingham) drew with M Ramsey (Birmingham) Super-featherweight (6rnds) G Thornhill (Liverpool) bt P Buckley (Birmingham) pts

LEDYARD, Connecticut: World Boxing Council Continental Americas heavyweight championship: L Donald (US, holder) bt T Witherspoon (US) pts.

POMPANO BEACH, Florida: International Boxing Federation junior-bantamweight championship: J Tapia (Mex, holder) bt A Agosto (P Rico) pts. IBF super-lightweight championship: V Phillips (US, holder) bt F Pendleton (US) pts. IBF junior-flyweight championship (vacant): M Pastrana (Col) bt M Herrera (Dom Rep) ko 10th IBF featherweight championship (vacant): H Lizarraga (US) bt W N'Cita (SA) ko 11th. Heavyweight: H Akinwande (GB) bt O Norris (US) pts.

TIJUANA, Mexico: World Boxing Council super-bantamweight championship: E Morales (Mex, holder) bt J Lowey (Ire) ret 8th.

CURLING

FUSSEN, Germany: European championships: Men: Ninth place play-off: Luxembourg 9 England 3. Seventh: Norway 10 Wales 1. Third: Scotland 6 Sweden 5. Final: Germany 10 Denmark 5. Women: Seventh place play-off: Norway 8 England 2. Fifth: Switzerland 8 Scotland 5. Third: Germany 9 Finland 5. Final: Sweden 6 Denmark 4.

GOLF

TAIWAN: Johnnie Walker Super Tour: Leading final scores: 278: J Parnevik (Swe) 67, 71, 68, 70. 280: N Faldo (GB) 67, 71, 72, 70. 282: B Ruangkit (Thai) 72, 70, 70, 70. 283: E Els (SA) 69, 71, 71, 72. 285: F Casas (Phil) 70, 71, 71, 73. 299: Hong Chia-yuh (Taiwan) 77, 77, 72, 73. 304: M Nasim (Indo) 74, 87, 68, 75

AUCKLAND: Air New Zealand-AMP New Zealand Open: Leading final scores (Aus unless stated): 278: G Turner (NZ) 69, 69, 71, 69. 285: L Parsons 72, 65, 73, 75; A Coltart (GB) 71, 70, 75, 69; J-L Guepy (Fr) 76, 67, 78, 67. 286: B Partridge 72, 71, 69, 74; F Nobilo (NZ) 72, 71, 73, 70. 287: C Parry 73, 71, 70, 73; P Gow 73, 76, 68, 70; P Tataurangi (NZ) 71, 73, 74, 69. 288: P Devenport (NZ) 74, 74, 69, 71; N Kerry 73, 73, 71, 71. 291: D McKenzie 72, 74, 72, 73; P O'Malley 73, 70, 75, 73. 292: S Alker (NZ) 71, 74, 72, 75; P Lonard 72, 75, 71, 74; E Boult (NZ) 73, 76, 71, 72. 293: B Ferguson 72, 69, 76, 76, J Senden 72, 73, 73, 75; C Spence 72, 76, 73, 72; R Lee (NZ) 77, 72, 73, 71

LA QUINTA, California: Diners Club championship: Friday: PGA Tour: B Faxon and B Andrade (US) bt S Elkington (Aus) and Jeff Maggert (US) 1 up; J Leonard and M Hulbert (US) bt J Daly and T Herron (US) 1 up; T Tolles and J Cook (US) bt M Calcavecchia and J Sluman (US) 2 and 1; T Lehman and D Waldorf (US) bt J Furyk and L Janzen (US) 3 and 1. LPGA Tour: N Lopez (US) and L Davies (GB) bt K Webb (Aus) and K Robbins (US) 1 up, T Green and D Andrews (US) bt A Nicholas (GB) and H Alfredsson (Swe) 20th hole, J Inkster and D Pepper (US) bt A Sorenstam (Swe) and M McGann (US) 3 and 1; B King and C Johnson (US) bt C Walker and B Burton (US) 4 and 3 Senior Tour: G Morgan and J Sigel (US) bt J Kiefer and B Duval (US) 24th hole; B Summerhays (US) and V Fernandez (Arg) bt J Jacobs (US) and G Player (SA) 2 and 1; C Rodriguez (P Rico) and D Graham (Aus) bt J Colbert and B Murphy (US) 4 and 2, B Eastwood and W Morgan (US) bt D Stockton and L Nelson (US) 2 and 1. Saturday: PGA Tour: Elkington and Maggert bt Leonard and Hulbert 1 up; Daly and Herron bt Faxon and Andrade 2 and 1; Furyk and Janzen bt Tolles and Cook 2 and 1; Lehman and Waldorf bt Calcavecchia and Sluman 4 and 3. LPGA Tour: Webb and Robbins bt Green and Andrews 1 up; Lopez and Davies bt Nicholas and Alfredsson 2 up; Sorenstam and McGann bt King and Johnson 2 and 1, Inkster and Pepper bt Walker and Burton 4 and 3 Senior Tour: Summerhays and Fernandez bt Morgan and Sigel 2 and 1; Kiefer and Duval bt Jacobs and Player 1 up; Eastwood and Morgan bt Rodriguez and Graham 2 and 1; Stockton and Nelson bt Colbert and Murphy 2 up

HANDBALL

BONN, Germany: Women's world championships: Semi-finals: Norway 25 Germany 23; Denmark 32 Russia 22. Third place play-off: Germany 27 Russia 25

ICE SKATING

HULL ARENA: Tesa British championships: Final positions: Men: 1, S Cousins (Deeside) 1.5pts; 2, N Wilson (Belfast) 3.0; 3, C Shorten (Chelmsford) 4.5; 4, I Macadam (Kilmarnock) 6.0 Women: 1, J Arrowsmith (Swindon) 2.0; 2, N Manning (Chelmsford) 2.5; 3, T Seer (Oxford) 4.5; 4, G Papavasiliou (Glasgow) 6.0; 5, K McDermott (Glasgow) 7.5; Pairs (one couple only): 1, M Polufaschenko and A Seabrook (Swindon) 1.5. Ice dance: 1, C Clements and G Shortland (Slough) 3.2; 2, R Chrobokova and J Lanning (Stretham) 3.4; 3, S Kerr and J Ferguson (Aberdeen) 5.4; 4, P O'Connor and J O'Dougherty (Blackburn) 8.0; 5, A Diaz and A Love (Guildford) 10.2.

WASHINGTON: World professional championships: Men: 1, K Browning (Can) 98.5; 2, R Galindo (US) 98.3; 3, B Boitano (US) 97.8. Women: 1, K Yamaguchi (US) 99.0, 2, E Gordeeva (Russ) 97.5, equal 3, D Biellmann (Switz) and N Kerrigan (US) 97.4 Pairs: 1, R Kovarikova and R Novotny (Cz) 98.0; 2, I Brasseur and L Eisler (Can) 97.7; 3, E Leonova and A Khvalko (Russ) 97.3. Ice dance: 1, R Roca and G Sur (US) 98.9, 2, M Usova and A Zhulin (Russ) 98.3; 3, A Webster and R Kravette (US) 97.1.

JUDO

FUKUOKA, Japan: Fukuoka women's tournament: Heavyweight (over 78kg): Semi-finals: Yuan Hua (China) bt M Ninomiya (Japan) shido (observation), Y Kiya (Japan) bt C Lebrun (Fr) yuko Final: Hua bt Kiya ippon. Light-heavyweight (78kg): Semi-finals: N Anno bt Young-Hee decision; D Luna bt Arong ippon. Final: Anno bt Luna ippon. Middleweight (70kg): Semi-finals: K Howey bt Sano waza-ari; Qin Dongya bt Costello ippon. Final: Dongya bt Howey decision. Light-middleweight (63kg): Semi-finals: N Kimoto bt S Vandenhende koka; R Kazumi bt S Alvarez yuko. Final: Kimoto bt Kazumi waza-ari. Lightweight (57kg): Semi-finals: D Gonzalez bt L Eun-Hee (Kor) ippon; H Nakahashi bt Shen Jun (China) decision Final: Gonzalez bt Nakahashi koka. Featherweight (52kg): Semi-finals: C Omori bt S Sato yuko; K Nagai bt K Hye-Sook koka Final: Nagai bt Omori ippon Bantamweight (48kg): Semi-finals: R Tamura bt A-M Gradante (Ger) ippon; A Nagai bt A Kuramochi (Japan) waza-ari. Final: Tamura bt Nagai observation Open: Semi-finals: Sun Fuming (China) bt Yuan Hua (China) ippon, L Hyun-Kyung (Kor) bt D Beltran (Cub) decision Final: Fuming bt Hyun-Kyung ippon.

LACROSSE

DAILY TELEGRAPH SENIOR FLAGS: Quarter-finals: Mellor 7 Boardman and Eccles 8, Poynton 5 Heaton Mersey 19; Cheadle Hulme 4 Timperley 10, Cheadle 12 Stockport 7

NETBALL

NEWCASTLE: International match: England 45 New Zealand 70

NORDIC SKIING

TRENTE, Italy: Men: Classic: 10km: 1, B Daehlie (Nor) 25min 8.80sec; 2, S Sivertsen (Nor) at 22.50; 3, V Smirnov (Kaz) 23.00; 4, M Botvinov (Russ) 32.00; 5, E Jevne (Nor) 39.70; 6, T Alsgaard (Nor) 46.30 Pursuit (15km): 1, Daehlie 35:44.5, 2, T Alsgaard (Nor) 35:53.5; 3, Botvinov 35:56.5; 4, Smirnov 36:11; 5, H Forsberg (Swe) 36:36.5; 6, F Valbusa (It) 36:36.7 Leading overall positions (after four events): 1, Daehlie 332pts; 2, T Alsgaard 206; 3, Smirnov 190; 4, Forsberg 142; 5, Botvinov 130, 6, S Sivertsen (Nor) 124 Women: Classic: 5km: 1, B Martinsen (Nor) 13:28.70sec; 2, A Moen-Guidon (Nor) at 18.10; 3, L Lazutina (Russ) 18.80, 4, O Danilova (Russ) 22.70; 5, M Mikkelsplass (Nor) 25.80, 6, S Nageikina (Russ) 30.20.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colorado: K112/15K Nordic combined competition (leaders at halfway stage) 1, M Stecher (Austria) 248.6pts; 2, D Kreiner (Austria) 240.2; 3, T Lodwick (US) 234.9; 4, B-E Vik (Nor) 234.2; 5, H Manninen (Fin) 233.0; 6, S Lajunen (Fin) 228.0; 7, F Ogiwara (Jap) 227.6; 8, C Eugen (Austria) 225.3; 9, C Bieler (Austria) 224.4; 10, T Tetreault (US) 224.2

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

First round replay

Folly Lane 22 Normanton 15

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam 14 West Hull 29; Beverley 22 Walney Central 2; Dudley Hill 2 Saddleworth 34; Egremont 12 Woolston 9; Lock Lane 28 Wigan St Patricks 4; Mayfield 10 Heworth 21; Oldham St Annes 20 Leigh Miners 19 First division: Barrow Island 38 Milford 20, East Leeds 26 Oulton 8; Leigh East 10 Thornhill 28, Redhill 48 Blackbrook 10; Shaw Cross 29 Eastmoor 18; Skirlaugh 48 Moldgreen 6; Wigan St Judes 36 Millom 4 Second division: Crosfields 26 Dodworth 6; Eccles 10 Featherstone Amateur 12; Hull Dockers 17 Dewsbury Moor 8; Siddal 24 London Students 14; York Acorn 29 Ovenden 16

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: Fuji Film Trophy: Fourth round: Bristol 5 Swindon 0; East Riding 2 Colville 1 Fourth round replay: South Northumberland 1 East Northumberland 1 (East Northumberland win 3-1 on pens) Cheshire Cup: Second round: Tameside 0 Macclesfield 0. Northern Merit League: Leeds 1 Blackburn 0; Salford 1 Huddersfield 4 Yorkshire Trophy: Middlesbrough 1 Barnsley 4, York 3 Hull 1 Staffordshire League: Cannock 2 Stoke 1, Stafford 1 Wolverhampton 1; Shrewsbury 2 South Cheshire 3 Score League: Gosport and Fareham 4 Southampton 2, Portsmouth 8 Havant 1 Pickford Shield: First round: Isle of Wight 5 Andover 7 (aet). Inter-Association: Grimsby 0 Sheffield 2; Wakefield 1 Rotherham 1; Bradford 1 Doncaster 0 Levon Yates Trophy: First round: Solihull 7 Burnley 0 Wrennal Trophy: Blackburn 3 Rossendale 2 Talbot Cup: Oldham 1 Manchester 3 North West Woodward Trophy: First round: Sefton 2 Wigan 0 Second round: Liverpool 5 Blackpool 0, Chester 0 Salford 3. Hartlepool Hospital Cup: Darlington 2 Bishop Auckland 3. Alcock Cup: Macclesfield 2 Tameside 1. Mid Cheshire 4 Flint 3. Snowdon Cup: Kirkby 0 St Helens 4 Sun Shield: Croydon 5 Islington and Camden 0.

RUGBY UNION: Berkhamsted 7 Merchant Taylors', Northwood 21. Bradford GS 36 ram 7, Caterham 0 Brighton 17 Chichester HS 8 Portsmouth GS 15. Desborough 42 Gunnersbury 7; Dollar Academy 5 Edinburgh Academy 51, Dulwich 29 Ampleforth 0, Haberdashers' Aske's 10 Coopers' Coborn 31, Hymers 22 Monument HS South Africa 22; John Fisher 62 Langley Park 5, Merchant Taylors', Crosby 3 Kirkham GS 14; Mill Hill 5 The Leys 5; Monmouth 31 Adam GS 0, Reigate GS 30 Tiffin 12. RGS High Wycombe 26 Bedford Modern 5, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital 27 Exeter 7. Stockport GS 43 Bolton 0

SKIING

VAL D'ISERE: World Cup: Men: Giant slalom: 1, M von Gruenigen (Switz) (1min 15.48sec, 1:14.00) 2:29.48; 2, S Eberharter (Austria) (1:15.90, 1:14.51) 2:30.41; 3, H Knauss (Austria) (1:16.19, 1:14.38) 2:30.57 4, U Kaelin (Switz) (1:16.15, 1:14.65) 2:30.80; 5, S Locher (Switz) (1:15.91, 1:15.12) 2:31.03, 6, M Buechel (Lich) (1:16.13, 1:14.91) 2:31.04 Leading World Cup positions: Giant slalom: 1, Von Gruenigen 200pts; 2, Eberharter 180; 3, H Maier (Austria) 160; 4, Locher 141; equal 5, Urs Kaelin (Switz) and K A Aamodt (Nor) 109. Overall: 1, Maier 429pts; 2, Eberharter 346; 3, Aamodt 297; 4, J Strobl (Austria) 276; 5, Von Gruenigen 274; 6, A Schifferer (Austria) 221

SNOOKER

BINGEN: German Open: Semi-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-4, J Parrott (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 6-4 Final: Higgins leads Parrott 5-3.

SPEED SKATING

HAMAR, Norway: World Cup: Men: 1,500m: 1, A Soendraal (Nor) 1min 49.52sec; 2, J Straathof (Holl) 1:50.68, 3, H Noake (Japan) 1:50.71 Leading World Cup positions: 1 Ritsma 120pts; 2, Noake 110; 3, Soendraal 105 Women: 3,000m: 1, C Pechstein (Ger) 4:7.13 (world record), 2, T de Jong (Holl) 4:10.90; 3, C Zijlstra (Holl) 4:11.92 Leading World Cup positions: 1, Pechstein 100; 2, Zijlstra 100; 3, de Jong 99

SQUASH

HONG KONG: Pak Fah Yeow World doubles championships: Men: Semi-finals: England (Walker and M Cairns) bt Pakistan (Amjad Khan and Zubair Jahan Khan) 15-13, 15-12, Australia (Jenson and C Rowland) bt Malaysia (Low and M Sool) 15-4, 15-8; Australia (D Jenson and C Rowland) bt Malaysia (K Low and M Sool) 15-4, 15-8 Third place play-off: Pakistan bt Malaysia 15-12, 15-10. Final: England bt Australia 15-11, 15-13 Women: Semi-finals: England (Jackman and S Wright) bt South Africa (C Nitch and Grainger) 15-5, 9-15, 15-12, New Zealand (L Joyce and P Beames) bt Australia (S FitzGerald and C Owens) 15-7, 15-13 Third place play-off: Australia bt South Africa 15-13, 15-8 Final: New Zealand bt England 15-4, 15-12 Mixed: Semi-finals: England (C Walker and C Jackman) bt Canada (J Crombie and H Wallace (Can) 15-7, 15-11, Australia (D Jenson and L Irving) bt South Africa (M Morris and N Grainger) 15-5, 8-15, 17-5 Final: Australia bt England 15-10, 15-11

SWIMMING

PONDS FORGE, Sheffield: ASA national winter championships. Men: Freestyle: 50m: 1, M Foster (Bath University) 22.97sec; 2, M Fibbens (Camden/Swiss Cottage) 23.06; 3, B Morgan (Carnegie) 23.30 100m: 1, M Stevens (University of Bath) 50.66sec; 2, Fibbens (Camden Swiss Cottage) 50.81, 3, N Shackell (Millfield) 50.95 200m: 1, Stevens 1min 50.33sec; 2, J Salter (Edinburgh) 1:50.90, 3, M Spackman (Bath University) 1:51.64 1,500m: 1, G Smith (Stockport) 15:21.00 2, I Wilson (Leeds) 15:26.09, 3, G Hudson (Portsmouth) 15:42.38 Backstroke: 100m: 1, N Willey (Barnet Copthall) 57.52sec; 2, S Miltis (Portsmouth Northsea) 58.06; 3, A O'Connor (Ire) 58.43 200m: 1, Miltis 2min 2.90sec; 2, D Smith (Loughborough) 2:05.18; 3, R Hope (Edinburgh) 2:05.18 Breaststroke: 50m: 1, D Mew (University of Bath) 28.58sec (British record); 2, G Bretell (University of Bath) 28.71; 3, R Maden (Rochdale Aquabears) 29.40 200m: 1, A Whitehead (Coventry) 2:16.45; 2, M Quinn (Bradford) 2:21.04; 3, Mew 2:21.47 Butterfly: 50m: 1, F Tonus (Bel) 25.35; 2, G Phillips (Havant) 25.37, 3, R Greenwood (Bolton) 25.47 100m: 1, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 53.76, 2, R Greenwood (Bolton Metro) 55.11, 3, S Parry (City of Liverpool) 55.44 200m: 1, R Ashcroft (Wigan) 2min 2.36sec, 2, T Kinugasa (Leeds) 2:03.56, 3, Greenwood 2:04.45. Individual medley: 200m: 1, J Hickman (Stockport) 2min 2.74sec (British record), 2, Kinugasa 2:05.97, 3, D Wigg (Newcastle) 2:06.82 400m: 1, Hickman 4:22.24 (British record), 2, Kinugasa 4:23.44; 3, Wigg 4:29.15 4 x 100m medley relay: 1, Bath University 3:49.00, 2, Loughborough University 3:51.12, 3, Leatherhead 3:54.63 4 x 100m relay: 1, Bath University 3:28.44 2, Leatherhead 3:31.10; 3, Portsmouth 3:32.54 Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1, S Rolph (Newcastle) 26.29sec; 2, A Sheppard (Milngavie and Bearsden) 26.45, 3, L Dreeson (Bel) 26.53 200m: 1, C Huddart (City of Leeds) 2:01.67; 2, J Craig (Haverhill) 2:02.15; 3, V Horner (Stockport Metro) 2:02.40. 400m: 1, Craig 4:15.70; 2, Horner 4:18.72; 3, H Cerna (Cz) 4:19.55 800m: 1, H Elkington (St Helens) 8min 52.47sec, 2, J Hunter (Borough of Hillingdon) 8:54.93; 3, M Pedder (Portsmouth Northsea) 8:59.84. Backstroke: 100m: 1, F Jiggins (Norwich) 1:04.10; 2, S Price (Barnet) 1:04.57; 3, K Sexton (Portsmouth) 1:04.67 200m: 1, H Don-Duncan (Ashton Central) 2:13.82; 2, K Osher (Ealing) 2:16.72; 3, J Deakins (City of Coventry) 2:17.16 Breaststroke: 50m: 1, J King (University of Bath) 33.00sec; 2, S Brownsdon (City of Birmingham) 33.34; 3, E Robinson (University of Bath) 33.51 100m: 1, L Hindmarsh (Leeds) 1min 11.36sec; 2, N Thornley (Salford) 1:12.19; 3, H Earp (Newcastle) 1:12.20 Butterfly: 50m: 1, C Foot (York) 28.16sec; 2, Dreeson 28.47; 3, S Massey (Loughborough) 28.63 100m: 1, Foot 1:01.84; 2, Pedder 1:02.44; 3, G Lee (Camphill Edwardians) 1:03.28 200m individual medley: 1, S Rolph (Newcastle) 2:17.69; 2, E Sarakatsani (Greece), S Nesbit (Portsmouth) 2:20.53 200m: 1, M Pedder (Portsmouth) 2:13.59; 2, G Lee (Camphill) 2:15.89; 3, D Majerova (Cz) 2:19.07 4 x 100m medley relay: 1, University of Bath 4:21.71, 2, City of Newcastle 4:23.75 3, Portsmouth Northsea 4:23.93 4 x 100m relay: 1, Leeds 3:55.81; 2, Newcastle 3:56.11; 3, Portsmouth 3:57.33

TENNIS

NOTTINGHAM: Girobank Tour Finals: Men: N Weal (Hants) bt P Hand (Berks) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 Women: J Lutrova (Russ) bt [illegible] Egorova (Russ) 6-1 retired

SYDNEY: Champions indoor tournament. Semi-finals: J Lloyd (GB) bt J Kriek (SA) 7-6, 6-1, J Connors (US) bt T Wilkison (US) 7-6, 6-3 Final: Connors bt Lloyd 3-6, 6-2, 10-7

WEIGHTLIFTING

CHIANG MAI, Thailand: World championships: Men: 99kg: 1, M Tesovic (Slovakia) 180, 220, 400; 2, J-H Choi (South Korea) 177.5, 210, 387.5; 3, O Grouknov (Ukr) 172.5, 212.5, 385 108kg: 1, Cui Wenhua (China) 195.0, 220.0, 415.0; 2, M Jedra (Pol) 175.0, 217.5, 392.5; 3, W Barnett (US) 170.0, 220.0, 390.0 Over 108kg: 1, A Chemerkin (Russ) 200.0, 262.5 (world record), 462.5 (world record); 2, R Weller (Ger) 200.0, 250.0, 450.0; 3, V Scerbatins (Lat) 187.5, 225.0, 412.5 Women: 83kg: 1, D Acikgoz (Turk) snatch, 115.0, jerk 147.5 (world record), total 262.5 (world record); 2, Tang Wei Fang (China) 117.5 (world record), 142.5, 260.0; 3, M Urrutia (Col) 105.0, 130.0, 235.0 Over 83kg Ma Runmei (China) 107.5

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Bristol 12 Richmond 13

Bristol: Pens: Burke 4 Richmond: Tries: Wright 2 Pen: Pini

Harlequins 53 Wasps 17

Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary 2, Keyter, Lacroix, Williams, penalty try Cons: Lacroix 3, Challinor Pens: Lacroix 3. Dropped goals: Lacroix 2. Wasps: Tries: Ions, penalty try Cons: Rees 2 Pen: Rees Att: 7,817

Leicester 55 Sale 15

Leicester: Tries: Horak 2, Gustard, M Johnson, Moody, West, penalty try Cons: Stransky 4 Pens: Stransky 4. Sale: Tries: Howarth, Rasaliu Con: Howarth Pen: Howarth. Att: 10,695

London Irish 10 Northampton 51

London Irish: Try: McCall Con: Woods Pen: Woods Northampton: Tries: Allen, Dawson, Grayson, Pagel, Pountney, Townsend. Cons: Grayson 6. Pens: Grayson 3 Att: 3,000

Yesterday

Newcastle 37 Gloucester 27

Newcastle: Tries: Armstrong 2, Legg, Metcalfe, Ryan, Underwood, Vanzandvliet Con: Andrew Gloucester: Tries: Catling, Jewell, penalty try Cons: Mapletoft 3 Pens: Mapletoft 2 Att: 3,000.

Saracens 50 Bath 23

Saracens: Tries: Johnson 2, R Wallace 2, Daniel, Ravenscroft Cons: Lynagh 4 Pens: Lynagh 4. Bath: Tries: Butland, Regan Cons: Callard 2 Pens: Callard 3. Att: 10,658

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saracens	7	7	0	0	195	103	14
Newcastle	6	6	0	0	180	109	12
Harlequins	6	4	0	2	194	161	8
Leicester	4	3	0	1	127	75	6
Sale	7	3	0	4	232	201	6
Richmond	6	3	0	3	134	120	6
Bath	6	3	0	3	176	169	6
Northampton	6	2	0	4	139	120	4
Gloucester	6	2	0	4	147	149	4
Wasps	5	1	0	4	109	153	2
London Irish	6	1	0	5	90	190	2
Bristol	7	1	0	6	92	252	2

LEADING SCORERS: 115: M Lynagh (Saracens 4 tries, 13 conversions 23 penalty goals) 97: S Howarth (Sale 1t, 22c, 15pg, 1 dropped goal) 70: M Mapletoft (Gloucester, 2t, 12c, 11pg, 1dg) 67: J Stransky (Leicester, 1t, 10c, 14pg) 64: G Rees (Wasps 1t, 7c, 15pg) 59: T Lacroix (Harlequins, 1t, 8c, 10pg, 2dg) Tries: 5: T Beim (Sale), D O'Leary (Harlequins), D Rees (Sale). 4: Lynagh, J Wright (Richmond)

Second division

Coventry 24 Blackheath 22

Coventry: Tries: Hewlett, Robinson Con: Harris Pens: Harris 4. Blackheath: Try: Ridgway Con: Braithwaite Pens: Braithwaite 5

Fylde 9 Orrell 21

Fylde: Pens: Peacock 3 Orrell: Tries: Huslop, Millership Con: Scott Pens: Scott 3

London Scottish 35 Rotherham 29

London Scottish: Tries: Cameron, Holmes, Morgan, Tarbuck Cons: Lee 3 Pens: Lee 2 Dropped goal: Cameron Rotherham: Tries: Austin, Binns, Harper, Lax Cons: Binns 3 Pen: Binns

Moseley 28 Wakefield 10

Moseley: Tries: Drake-Lee, M Jones, MacKinnon Cons: M Jones 2 Pens: M Jones 3 Wakefield: Try: Scully Con: G Miller Pen: G Miller Att: 1,000.

Waterloo 14 Bedford 28

Waterloo: Try: Morris Pens: Griffiths 3 Bedford: Tries: Crabb, Hewitt, Kinne, Whetstone Cons: Rayer 4 Att: 1,100

West Hartlepool 34 Exeter 14

West Hartlepool: Tries: Vile 2, Benson, Farrell, S John Cons: Vile 3 Pen: Vile Exeter: Tries: Armstrong, Barrow Cons: Fabian 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford	10	10	0	0	335	154	20
L Scottish	11	8	0	3	290	213	16
Waterloo	11	7	0	4	284	232	14
W Hartlepool	[illegible]	7	[illegible]	3	237	199	14
Coventry	11	7	[illegible]	4	213	257	14
Orrell	[illegible]	6	[illegible]	4	234	171	12
Moseley	10	[illegible]	0	4	198	163	12
Rotherham	10	4	0	6	217	206	8
Blackheath	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	245	277	8
Exeter	11	2	0	9	172	277	4
Wakefield	11	[illegible]	0	10	158	280	2
Fylde	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	153	297	2

LEADING SCORERS: 153: M Rayer (Bedford 3 tries, 24 conversions, 30 penalty goals) 135: L Griffiths (Waterloo, 18c, 33pg) 117: S Binns (Rotherham, 2t, 10c, 29pg, 1 dropped goal) 110: S Vile (West Hartlepool, 2t, 15c, 23pg, 2dg) 97: J Fabian (Exeter, 2t, 9c, 23pg) 93: D Lee (London Scottish, 3t, 12c, 18pg, 2dg) Tries: 10: J Crabb (Blackheath) 9: C Sherman (London Scottish). 8: S Whetstone (Bedford), 6: M Coast (Waterloo), D O'Mahony, Moseley, W Morris (Waterloo)

Jewson National League

First division

Harrogate 17 London Welsh 32

Harrogate: Tries: Farrar, Magee, penalty try Con: James London Welsh: Tries: Currier, Davies, Johansen, Mitchell Cons: Raymond 3 Pens: Raymond 2

Liverpool St H 6 Leeds 21

Liverpool St Helens: Pens: Salisbury 2. Leeds: Tries: [illegible], Scarborough. [illegible] Cons: [illegible]

Nottingham 22 Rosslyn Park 10

Nottingham: Try: Bygrave Con: C Atkinson Pens: C Atkinson 5 Rosslyn Park: [illegible] Con: Burns Pen: Slater

Worcester 47 Reading 19

Worcester: Tries: Smith 3, Baxter, Hinton, Jones, Jenner, Le Bas Cons: Le Bas 3 Pens: Le Bas 2 Reading: Try: Ames Con: Dixon Pens: Dixon 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	476	191	21
L Welsh	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	472	147	20
Worcester	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	341	192	18
Rugby	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	270	197	17
Leeds	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	313	222	14
Otley	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	252	227	12
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	287	324	10
Reading	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	126	191	11
Rosslyn Park	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	151	259	9
Liverpool St H	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	154	243	8
Nottingham	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	220	264	[illegible]
Wharfedale	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	202	271	4
Harrogate	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	125	214	2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	145	475	2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LEADING SCORERS: 146: S Tuipulotu (Leeds; 5 tries, 20 conversions, 27 penalty goals): 134: C Raymond (London Welsh; 4t, 33c, 15pg; 1 dropped goal) 114: A Mounsey (Wharfedale; 4t, 14c, 22pg). 109: C Atkinson (Nottingham; 1t, 10c, 28pg). 107: J Quantrill (Rugby; 5t, 20c, 14pg) 104: P Rutledge (Otley; 3t, 13c, 21pg). 98: A Maddock (Rosslyn Park, 2t, 8c, 24pg). Tries: 8: D Bishop (Rugby), B Johnson (Newbury). 7: A Currier (London Welsh). C Davies (Newbury), M Giraud (London Welsh). 6: J Jenner (Worcester). J Reynolds (London Welsh)

Second division north

Stourbridge 41 Nuneaton 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	10	9	0	1	335	137	18
Manchester	11	8	2	1	387	245	18
Kendal	10	6	1	3	221	134	13
Sandal	11	6	1	4	228	250	13
Nuneaton	10	6	0	4	191	208	12
Sedgley Park	10	5	1	4	253	215	11
Sheffield	10	5	0	5	279	215	10
Stourbridge	10	5	0	5	243	196	10
Walsall	10	4	1	5	215	258	9
Preston Grass	10	3	1	6	168	198	7
Hinckley	10	3	0	7	185	276	6
Aspatria	10	3	0	7	186	393	6
Lichfield	10	2	1	7	143	209	5
Winnington P	10	2	0	8	178	278	4

Second division south

Camberley 10 Tabard 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Camberley	11	9	0	2	324	172	18
Henley	10	9	0	1	261	156	18
Barking	10	7	0	3	301	199	14
Tabard	11	7	0	4	201	158	14
Esher	10	6	0	4	213	199	12
N Walsham	10	6	0	4	162	157	12
Clifton	10	6	0	4	158	184	12
Cheltenham	10	4	1	5	204	223	9
Bridgwater	10	4	0	6	215	301	8
Havant	10	3	1	6	139	208	7
Redruth	10	3	0	7	236	222	6
Weston-s-M	10	3	0	7	141	202	6
Plymouth	10	2	0	8	187	242	4
Met Police	10	1	0	9	140	265	2

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Askeans 8 Old Mid-Whitgiftians 36.

Welsh League

Premier division

Cardiff 22 Swansea 31

Cardiff: Tries: G Thomas 2. Pens: Jarvis 4 Swansea: Tries: Appleyard, Stuart Davies, Gibbs Cons: A Thomas 2. Pens: A Thomas 3 Dropped goal: A Thomas

Ebbw Vale 31 Neath 11

Ebbw Vale: Tries: Faletau, Harries, Llewellyn, Mason. Cons: Hayward 4 Pen: Hayward. Neath: Try: Richard Jones Pens: Price 2.

Newport 24 Llanelli 32

Newport: Tries: Machacek, Price, penalty try. Cons: Connor 3. Pen: Connor. Llanelli: Tries: Proctor 2, McBryde, Moon. Cons: Botica 3. Pens: Botica 2.

Pontypridd 46 Bridgend 10

Pontypridd: Tries: Barnard, A Griffiths, S Lewis, Geraint Lewis, McIntosh, Prosser, Wyatt. Cons: Jenkins 4 Pen: Jenkins Bridgend: Try: A Williams Con: Cull Pen: Cull

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Swansea	6	5	0	1	228	105	31	5	20
Pontypridd	6	4	1	1	193	97	25	5	18
Cardiff	6	4	1	1	170	135	17	1	14
Llanelli	6	3	0	3	165	133	20	2	11
Ebbw Vale	6	3	0	3	117	175	13	1	10
Bridgend	6	2	1	3	111	228	12	0	7
Neath	6	1	1	4	138	188	17	1	5
Newport	6	0	0	6	112	173	10	1	1

First division

Blackwood 22 Cross Keys 15

Blackwood: Tries: W Simms 2 Pens: Lay 3 Dropped goal: Lay. Cross Keys: Tries: Ovey 2. Con: Bebb Pen: Bebb.

Dunvant 25 Aberavon 20

Dunvant: Try: E Harris. Con: M Thomas Pens: M Thomas 6 Aberavon: Tries: Jacobs, Lally, Stork. Con: Stork. Pen: Stork.

Llandovery 16 Bonymaen 13

Llandovery: Try: D Williams, Con: A Williams Pens: A Williams 3 Bonymaen: Try: Beynon Con: S Davies. Pens: S Davies 2.

Newbridge 45 Cardiff Inst 5

Newbridge: Tries: Budgeon 2, Lucas 2, Cooper, Parfitt, Powell Cons: J Williams 5. Cardiff Institute: Try: R Jones.

Pontypool 19 Merthyr 12

Pontypool: Tries: Bishop, M Cawley, Field. Cons: Silva 2 Merthyr: Tries: Hancox, Hooper Con: Tilley

Rumney 20 Caerphilly 32

Rumney: Tries: K Lee, Wills. Cons: Mason 2 Pens: Mason 2 Caerphilly: Tries: R Bidgood, Starr Cons: Davey 2. Pens: Davey 6.

SW Police 48 Maesteg 19

South Wales Police: Tries: Cox 2, Apsee, Howells, Sparrow, A Thomas, Wakeford. Cons: Sparrow 4. Pen: Sparrow. Maesteg: Tries: K Lewis, D Morris, Roberts. Cons: A Davies 2.

Treorchy 15 Abertillery 18

Treorchy: Tries: Egger, D Lloyd. Con: D Lloyd. Pen: D Lloyd. Abertillery: Tries: N Meredith, A Price. Con: A Price. Pen: A Price. Dropped goal: Green.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Caerphilly	16	14	0	2	563	262	69	9	51
Aberavon	16	12	2	2	451	262	65	8	46
Treorchy	16	11	0	5	428	280	61	8	41
SW Police	16	8	0	8	420	322	61	8	32
Merthyr	16	8	3	5	305	286	45	3	30
Llandovery	16	8	0	8	324	283	40	4	28
Dunvant	16	7	1	8	336	396	37	3	25
Bonymaen	16	7	0	9	280	261	36	3	24
Cross Keys	16	7	1	8	302	322	31	2	24
Abertillery	16	7	1	8	274	321	33	2	24
Newbridge	16	7	0	9	270	327	27	3	24
Blackwood	16	7	0	9	289	376	38	2	23
Cardiff Inst	16	4	0	12	359	459	49	9	21
Rumney	15	6	1	8	303	405	37	1	20
Maesteg	15	5	0	10	271	392	26	1	16
Pontypool	16	4	1	11	283	505	35	1	14

SECOND DIVISION: Abercynon 0 Tondu 22; St Peter's 0 Kenfig Hill 9; Whitland 22 Pyle 11; Ystradgynlais 34 Llanharan 7; Tredegar 18 Mountain Ash 10; Tenby Utd 15 Narberth 0.

Tennents Premiership

First division

Edinburgh Ac 15 Jed-Forest 20

Edinburgh Academicals: Tries: Andrew, Leighton Con: Leighton. Pen: Leighton. Jed-Forest: Tries: M Brown, Forster, McIlroy Con: C Richards Pen: C Richards.

Hawick 6 Boroughmuir 18

Hawick: Pens: Welsh 2. Boroughmuir: Tries: Burns, Kiddie, Wyllie. Pen: Aitken

Melrose 31 Heriot's FP 22

Melrose: Tries: Moncreiff 2, Dalgleish, Hogg. Con: Shepherd. Pens: Shepherd 3. Heriot's FP: Tries: Fowler, Livingstone, Payot. Cons: Ross 2. Pen: Ross.

Watsonians 58 Currie 0

Watsonians: Tries: Kerr 3, Burns, S Hastings, F Henderson, D Hodge, Mayer. Cons: D Hodge 6. Pens: D Hodge 2.

West of Scotland 8 Stirling County 11

West of Scotland: Pens: Thompson 2. Stirling County: Try: Ireland. Pens: M McKenzie 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Stirling Co	3	3	0	0	75	23	0	1	13
Melrose	3	3	0	0	72	25	0	1	13
Watsonians	3	2	0	1	108	41	0	2	10
Jed-Forest	3	2	0	1	57	81	0	1	9
W of Scot	2	1	0	1	57	17	0	2	6
Boroughmuir	2	1	0	1	21	27	0	0	4
Hawick	3	1	0	2	44	59	0	0	4
Edinburgh A	3	0	0	3	25	75	0	1	1
Heriot's FP	2	0	0	2	27	68	0	0	0
Currie	2	0	0	2	14	84	0	0	0

Second division

Biggar 13 Kelso 32

Biggar: Try: E McAlpine. Con: Lavery Pens: Lavery 2 Kelso: Tries: G Cowe, Fairly, R Laing, G Laing. Cons: Hutchison 3. Pens: Hutchison 2.

Dundee HSFP 26 Gala 24

Dundee HSFP: Tries: Petrie 2, Longstaff, D Milne. Pens: C Milne 2. Gala: Tries: Changleng, Crooks Con: C Patterson. Pens: C Patterson 4

Kilmarnock 8 Peebles 19

Kilmarnock: Try: Stewart. Pen: Stewart Peebles: Try: Mullen Con: Mullen Pens: Mullen 4.

Kirkcaldy 31 Musselburgh 5

Kirkcaldy: Tries: Parsons 2, Ferguson, Henderson, J Mitchell Cons: J Mitchell 2. Gilmour Musselburgh: Try: Thomas.

Preston Lodge 8 Glasgow Hawks 37

Preston Lodge: Try: S Gilliland Pen: Kinross. Glasgow Hawks: Tries: Stark 2, Hayes, Hutton, Metcalfe Cons: Metcalfe 3 Pens: Metcalfe 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Glasgow H	3	3	0	0	93	25	0	2	14
Kelso	3	3	0	0	89	33	0	2	14
Gala	3	2	0	1	70	53	0	1	9
Biggar	3	2	0	1	63	68	0	0	8
Peebles	3	1	1	1	41	38	0	1	7
Dund HSFP	3	1	0	2	49	81	0	2	6
Kirkcaldy	3	1	0	2	55	51	0	1	5
Kilmarnock	3	1	0	2	44	57	0	1	5
Musselburgh	3	0	1	2	26	53	0	1	3
Preston L	3	0	0	3	25	98	0	0	0

Third division

Gordonians 17 Glasgow S 8

Gordonians: Tries: Mackay 2, McLean. Con: Carmichael Glasgow Southern: Try: McKnight Pen: Cossey

Hillhead/J 16 Ayr 18

Hillhead/Jordanhill: Try: D Muir. Con: D Muir Pens: D Muir 2, Jamieson Ayr: Tries: Jessop, Manning. Pens: M Ellis 2.

Selkirk 18 Aberdeen GSFP 15

Selkirk: Tries: Gentleman 2, Hunter. Pen: Boland. Aberdeen GSFP: Tries: Coward, Maguire. Con: Abrahams Pen: Abrahams.

Stewartry 24 Grangemouth 28

Stewartry: Tries: Craig 2, Boreland, Dunlop. Cons: Campbell, Dunlop Grangemouth: Tries: Bradley 2, Crossan Cons: Halliday 2. Pens: Halliday 3.

POSTPONED: Glenrothes v Stewart's Melville FP

TENNENTS VELVET CUP: Fifth-round draw: Kilmarnock Falcons v Melrose; Jed-Forest v Glasgow Hawks, East Kilbride v Hawick, Heriot's FP v Stirling County: Edinburgh Academicals v Watsonians: Currie v Gala; Kirkcaldy v Boroughmuir: Kelso v West of Scotland

☐ *Ties to be played on February 28*

AIB League

First division

Ballymena 44 Blackrock College 6
Dolphin 15 Young Munster 31
Garryowen 37 Old Belvedere 22
Shannon 31 Clontarf 6
St Mary's Coll 70 Dungannon 29

Yesterday

Lansdowne 9 Terenure 9
Old Crescent 10 Cork Con 17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shannon	3	3	0	0	101	19	6
Ballymena	3	3	0	0	115	34	6
Young Munster	3	2	1	0	59	37	5
Terenure	3	2	1	0	45	36	5
St Mary's Coll	3	2	0	1	123	70	4
Garryowen	3	1	1	1	64	50	3
Lansdowne	3	1	1	1	76	83	3
Cork Con	3	1	0	2	41	46	2
Clontarf	3	1	0	2	36	64	2
Blackrock Coll	3	1	0	2	83	117	2
Dungannon	3	1	0	2	60	99	2
Dolphin	3	1	0	2	56	100	2
Old Belvedere	3	0	0	3	54	98	0
Old Crescent	3	0	0	3	18	78	0

Second division

Buccaneers 21 Sunday's Well 6
Galwegians 50 Derry 13
Greystones 25 Instonians 14
Monkstown 22 Wanderers 15
Old Wesley 25 Malone 17
Skerries 19 DLSP 18
UCC 14 Bective Rangers 9

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Pool A: Durham 26 Cumbria 68 (at Hartlepool Rovers); Warwickshire 34 Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire 26 (at Rugby) Pool B: Lancashire 24 Leicestershire 25 (at Preston Grasshoppers). North Midlands 12 Cheshire 28 (at Worcester) Pool C: Northumberland 57 East Midlands 17 (at Alnwick); Staffordshire 7 Yorkshire 52 (at Burton) South: Pool A: Eastern Counties 3 Cornwall 40 (at Grange Road, Cambridge) Pool B: Hertfordshire 20 Gloucestershire 33 (at Hertford), Berkshire 6 Dorset and Wiltshire 50 (at Abbey) Pool C: Buckinghamshire 16 Hampshire 47 (at Amersham and Chiltern): Surrey 0 Kent 20 (at Sutton and Epsom) Pool D: Oxfordshire 17 Middlesex 46 (at Iffley Road, Oxford); Somerset 24 Devon 23 (at Bridgwater).

CLUB MATCHES: Cheltenham 16 Birmingham/Solihull 13; Hinckley 21 Market Bosworth 12, Manchester 69 Broughton Park 14, Metropolitan Police 5 Stroud 34; Plymouth 68 Okehampton 8

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Toulouse 56 La Rochelle 19; Biarritz 33 Narbonne 20; Brive 27 Montferrand 26; Béziers 23 Nice 18; Dax 15 Colomiers 36 Pool two: Castres 35 Grenoble 10; Montpellier 25 Agen 41; Bourgoin 29 Pau 9, Toulon 25 Perpignan 21; Stade Français 18 Bègles-Bordeaux 14

Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland on the way to victory in the ice dance section of the Tesa British championships at the Hull Arena. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

CRICKET

Under-19 international match

South Africa v England

CAPE TOWN (final day of four): South Africa drew with England

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 504-8 dec (G Elliott 201 not out, M Street 79, M Creed 61 A Gait 55; P J Franks 4-65)

Second Innings

M Creed c Flanagan b Logan	6
J de Nobrega not out	7
A Gait not out	2
Extras (b 3, lb 1)	4
Total (1 wkt, 2 overs)	19

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6

BOWLING: Logan 1-0-9-1; Franks 1-0-6-0.

ENGLAND: First Innings

S D Peters c Gait b Creed	4
R W T Key c Street b Lumb	39
I N Flanagan c Putick b Creed	11
G P Swann c Street b Petersen	75
M A Gough c van Wyk b Lumb	0
G R Haywood c Creed b Lumb	30
R J Logan c Elliott b Mpitsang	3
G R Napier c Elliott b Mpitsang	40
*P J Franks c Lumb b Mpitsang	20
C P Schofield c Mpitsang b Creed	18
†N J Wilton not out	6
Extras (b 10, lb 5, w 7, nb 18)	40
Total (89.4 overs)	286

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-44, 3-90, 4-106, 5-107, 6-162, 7-215, 8-236, 9-253

BOWLING: Mpitsang 24-6-69-3; Creed 21.4-5-69-3; Lumb 20-1-74-3; Petersen 19-4-45-1; Rudolph 5-1-14-0

Second Innings

S D Peters c van Wyk b Mpitsang	92
R W T Key c Mpitsang b Creed	51
I N Flanagan run out	2
G P Swann lbw b Rudolph	12
M A Gough not out	32
G R Haywood c van Wyk b Creed	6
G R Napier lbw b de Nobrega	19
*P J Franks c Gait b Mpitsang	6
C P Schofield c Gait b Creed	6
†N J Wilton lbw b Mpitsang	1
R J Logan c Elliott b Rudolph	0
Extras (b 8, lb 9, w 4, nb 13)	29
Total (128.1 overs)	256

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-105, 2-121, 3-139, 4-176, 5-185, 6-222, 7-233, 8-244, 9-255

BOWLING: Creed 21-8-64-3, Mpitsang 28-11-36-3, Lumb 20-7-59-0, Petersen 15-7-32-0, Rudolph 37.1-18-45-2; de Nobrega 7-4-8-1

Umpires: P Roypert and J Patekar

TOUR MATCHES: Second day of four: Devonport: Tasmania 535-5 dec (S Young 145, D J Marsh 129 not out, J Cox 73, D F Hills 68): South Africans 132-5. Final day of three: Port Elizabeth: West Indies A 289 and 192-6 dec (S Rajoonath 76), Eastern Province 140 and 51-3. Match drawn. One day: Brisbane: New Zealanders 266-5 (M J Horne 102, S P Fleming 95); Queensland 266-8 (M L Love 76). Match tied

Women's World Cup

England v Denmark

HYDERABAD (Denmark won toss): England beat Denmark by 194 runs

ENGLAND

C Edwards c Hansen b Brock	72
H Plimmer c Iversen b Nielsen	87
J Brittin b D S Christensen	51
S Metcalfe st Iversen b Nielsen	4
†J Cassar not out	43
*K Smithies not out	29
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 8)	15
Total (4 wkts, 50 overs)	301

M Reynard, B Nicholson, C Connor, C Taylor and S Redfern did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-85, 2-171, 3-178, 4-243.

BOWLING: Kjaer 6-1-54-0; Christiansen 4-0-29-0; Nielsen 10-0-51-2; Brock 10-0-55-1, Jonssen 10-0-52-0, D S Christiansen 10-0-53-0

DENMARK

D S Christiansen lbw b Taylor	2
D T Christiansen lbw b Redfern	4
J Philipsen lbw b Edwards	16
*J Jonssen c Cassar b Taylor	4
T Christiansen c Cassar b Edwards	6
K Mikkelsen not out	39
H Hansen b Reynard	2
S Nielsen run out	0
M Brock not out	8
Extras (b1, lb5, w20)	26
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	107

†M Iversen and H Kjaer did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-11, 3-15, 4-32, 5-53, 6-86, 7-93

BOWLING: Taylor 10-4-12-2; Redfern 6-2-13-1; Smithies 8-3-6-0, Edwards 9-3-21-2; Connor 7-3-10-0, Reynard 6-2-18-1; Nicholson 4-1-21-0

Umpires: V K Ramaswamy and I Sivaram

OTHER MATCHES: Chandigarh: New Zealand 236-3 (D Hockley 100 not out, K Withers 57 not out); Sri Lanka 71 Faridabad: India 145-7; West Indies 83.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH (one day): Sydney: Australia A 203-9 (D S Lehmann 84 not out), Australia 206-7 (R T Ponting 79 not out). Australia win by three wickets.

SUPERSPORT SERIES (third day of four): Johannesburg: Gauteng 361 and 253-6 dec (D N Crookes 106 not out); Border 216 and 114-4 (B White 51) Centurion: Northern Titans 328 and 89-1, Griqualand West 104 and 310 (M H Gidley 134, P Barnard 53, W Bossenger 54; S Elworthy 5-82, P S de Villiers 4-105) Northern Titans win by nine wickets. Paarl: Boland 165 and 265 (K M Curran 67; A Dawson 4-51); Western Province 121 and 195-7 (L Ferreira 69)

ATHLETICS

Cross country

LISBON: European championships: Men: 9.30km: 1, C Jorgsen (Den) 27min 18sec, 2, C Nyberg (Swe) 27.20, 3, S Lebick (Ukr) 27.23; 4, M Essaid (Fr) 27.30; 5, A Braz (Por) 27.32 Teams: 1, Portugal 34, 2, France 46, 3, Spain 56 Women: 5.45km: 1, J Lliado (Fr) 17min 20sec; 2, E Filatova (Rom) 17.33, 3, O Jevtic (Yug) 17.37, 4, A Sandell (Fin) 17.39, 5, M Chirila (Rom) 18.10. Teams: 1, France 21pts; 2, Romania 22, 3, Spain 46 Junior men: 5.45km: 1, G-J Leiters (Holl) 15min 45sec, 2, G Weidlinger (Austria) 15:40, 3, M Mohamed (Swe) 16.00, 4, J C Higuero (Sp) 16.02, 5, S Haughian (GB) 16.10 Teams: 1, Spain 19pts; 2, Portugal 43; 3, Romania 48. Junior women: 2.85km: 1, S Slolic (Yug) 9min 09sec, 2, M Rosa (Por) 9.15, 3, J Heinze (Ger) 9.16, 4, L Kleinmann (Ger) 9.19, 5, S Doman (Slovakia) 9.20 Teams: 1, Germany 15pts; 2, Yugoslavia 33, 3, Great Britain 43

PARIS: Figaro races: Men: 12km: 1, P Kosgei (Ken) 36min 57sec; 2, L Chege (Ken) 37.09; 3, W Omwoyo (Ken) 37.11; 4, D Kiprulo (Ken) 37.20; 5, J Kosgei (Ken) 37.23; 6, M Abaoub (Alg) 37.24, 7, B Zwierzchlowski (Fr) 37.25, 8, L Zeroual (Mar) 37.51, 9, M El Hamadi (Mar) 38.03, 10, O Strigalkov (Russ) 38.05 Women: 5km: 1, L Cheromei (Ken) 16.26; 2, M Marusova (Russ) 16.32; 3, R Joseph (Tan) 16.34, 4, L Melol (Ken) 16.40; K Dulecha (Eth) 16.40, 6, V Nenacheva (Russ) 16.52; 7, A Worku (Eth) 16.57, 8, B Blitzner (Fr) 16.59, 9, Z Dahmani (Fr) 17.05, 10, D Costecu (Rom) 17.14

AMERSHAM: Bedfordshire championships: Men: 11km: 1, D McCormack (Vauxhall) 34min 14sec; 2, W Levitt (Vauxhall) 34.14; 3, K McMahon (Bedford) 36.21 Teams: 1, Vauxhall 50pts, 2, Bedford 57, 3, Leighton Buzzard (holders) 86 Women: 6km: 1, S Reinsford (Bedford) 21.49, 2, E Carbon (Bedford) 22.25, 3, L Wilson (Stopsley Striders) 22.46 Teams: Bedford 8

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE: County championships: Men: 12km: 1, C Addison (Vale of Aylesbury, holder) 34min 39sec; 2, C Herrington (Milton Keynes) 35.13, 3, A Magnall (Vale of Aylesbury) 35.32 Team: Vale of Aylesbury (holders) 28. Women: 6km: 1, J Lear (Chiltern) 22.55; 2, J Helleman (Veterans AC) 23.40; 3, L Butt (Wycombe Phoenix) 23.44. Team: Chiltern 10

ARRINGTON: Cambridgeshire championships: Men: 12km: 1, A Barber (Peterborough) 41min 49sec, 2, M Salt (Cambridge and Coleridge) 43.16, 3, M Bryant (Cambridge and Coleridge) 43.22 Teams: 1, Nene Valley (holders) 68pts; 2, Cambridge and Coleridge 72; 3, Cambridge Triathlon Club 153 Women: 5km: 1, C Mead (Cambridge and Coleridge) 18.22; 2, M Neal (Peterborough) 18.24, 3, A Tomkinson (Peterborough) 18.54

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION: Barford Tigers 2 Teddington 2, Cannock 3 Old Loughtonians 2: Canterbury 6 East Grinstead 3, Hounslow 4 Guildford 3, Reading 7 Doncaster 3: Southgate 4 Beeston 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	12	9	2	1	48	20	29
Canterbury	12	7	2	3	50	35	23
Southgate	12	7	2	3	38	25	23
Reading	12	7	1	4	42	32	22
East Grinstead	12	7	1	4	33	26	22
O L'onians	12	6	2	4	40	32	20
Teddington	12	5	3	4	34	35	18
Hounslow	11	4	2	5	27	30	14
Barford Tigers	12	2	4	6	22	36	10
Doncaster	12	2	2	8	31	46	8
Beeston	12	2	2	8	18	43	8
Guildford	12	1	1	10	22	45	4

FIRST DIVISION: Firebrands 0 Oxford University 3, Gloucester City 2 Bromley 3, Hampstead 1 Loughborough St 0: Harleston Magpies 1 Bournville 3. Havant 1 Chelmsford 1, Lewes 2 Sheffield 7, Oxford Hawks 1 Brooklands 2: St Albans 2 Isca 2. Stourport [illegible] Indian Gymkhana 2 [illegible] Surbiton 3 Hull [illegible] Warrington 3 Bluehearts 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surbiton	11	9	2	0	41	11	29
Brooklands	11	9	1	1	30	17	28
Havant	11	8	3	0	42	15	27
Bourneville	11	7	3	1	35	18	24
Chelmsford	11	7	2	2	39	23	23
Indian Gym	11	7	1	3	28	18	22
Bromley	11	6	3	2	24	21	21
Hampstead	11	6	1	4	21	14	19
Stourport	11	5	1	5	27	24	16
Hull	11	4	3	4	23	22	15
Oxford Univ	11	3	3	5	22	23	12
Isca	11	3	3	5	21	31	12
Harleston M	11	3	2	6	17	21	11
Lewes	11	2	5	4	30	42	11
Gloucester City	11	3	1	7	17	23	10
Sheffield	11	3	1	7	23	30	10
Oxford Hawks	11	3	1	7	17	30	10
L'borough Stu	11	2	3	6	19	24	9
Bluehearts	11	2	3	6	22	33	9
Firebrands	11	1	5	5	13	30	8
St Albans	11	1	3	7	19	37	6
Warrington	11	1	2	8	19	41	5

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Beckenham 3 Anchorians 3; Bournemouth 2 Eastcote 3, City Of Portsmouth 7 Purley 3. Fareham 0 Gore Court 4, Ramgarhia 1 High Wycombe 3 Richmond 2 Herne Bay 1; Trojans 1 Woking 2 Tunbridge Wells 3 Chichester 3. Wimbledon 2 Maidenhead 0 Postponed: Winchester v Old Whitgiftians Hampshire: Andover 4 Old Cranleighans 3, Barnes 3 Camberley 1 Epsom 7 Portsmouth 0; Haslemere 2 Oxted 2: London University 1 Blandford 2, Old Mid Whitgiftians 4 Goan 0; Old Georgians 5 Dulwich 2; Spencer 2 Old Walcountians 2 Kent/Sussex: Ashford 1 B B H C 1; Bexley Invicta 3 Middleton-Bognor 3; Brighton 4 Old Bordenians 1 Burnt Ash 0 Horsham 3

Eastbourne 3 Sevenoaks 1 Lloyd Bank 1 Old Williamsonians 2: Newhaven 1 Folkestone 4 Tulse Hill 1 Mid Sussex 1, Worthing 3 Old Holcombeians 3 Postponed: Blackheath v Maiden Russets Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Ashford 1 Hayes 1

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division. Ben Rhydding 1 Formby 4 Harrogate 5 Timperley 3, Neston 2 Wigan 2, Norton 3 Sheffield Bankers 4 Southport 2 Chester 3 Postponed: Durham University v Swalwell

OTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blossomfield 1 Nottingham 11, Bloxwich 1 Hampton-in-Arden 5, Coventry and North Warwickshire 1 Northampton Saints 4, Edgbaston 1 Olton and West Warwickshire 2, Khalsa 3 North Notts 0 North Stafford 1 Harborne 3

SCOTTISH INDOOR LEAGUE. Second division: Harris 4 Kelburne 6 Westcars 4 Morgan 9; Harris 2 Morgan 10 Westcars 3 Kelburne 5, Harris 6 Westcars 14; Kelburne 11 Morgan 6 Perthshire 3 Steppes 6 Clydebank 6 Grove 12 Perthshire 5 Grove 5; Clydebank 4 Steppes 7; Perthshire 6 Clydebank 5 Steppes 5 Grove 7

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES. West: Cheltenham 5 Yeovil [illegible] Exeter 2 Bournemouth 4, Exmouth 2 Colwall 2 Leominster 0 Redland 3 Taunton Vale 2 [illegible] Austell 2 East: Bury St Edmunds 2 Sevenoaks 1 Cambridge City 2 Ashford 0 St Albans 1 Ipswich 0 Welwyn Garden City 3 Harleston Magpies 7

SCOTTISH INDOOR LEAGUE. First division: Clydesdale 2 Bonagrass Grove 3 Aberdeen Bon Accord 1 Western Klick Photopoint 11 Edinburgh Ladies 6 Menzieshill 3, Bonagrass Grove 8 Aberdeen Bon Accord 0: Menzieshill 4 Clydesdale 4 Western Klick Photopoint 3 Edinburgh Ladies 3 Second division. Royal High Gymnasts 4 Hyndland 0 Highland 2 Fourth Valley 3 Perthshire 3 Grange 2 Boroughmuir 1 Grove A 5 Highland 3 Hyndland 2 Royal HG 1 Fourth Valley 0 Boroughmuir 4 Grange 2 Perthshire 2 Grove A 6

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm 85 Evde London Towers 96 (OT) Newcastle Eagles 64 Peugeot Bullets Birmingham 70; Thames Valley Tigers 84 Sheffield Sharks 87

	P	W	L	Pts
London Towers	14	12	2	24
* Birmingham	11	10	1	20
Leopards	13	9	4	18
Thames Valley	13	9	4	18
Manchester	12	8	4	16
Sheffield	12	8	4	16
Newcastle	14	7	7	14
Chester	10	6	4	12
Worthing	16	5	11	10
Leicester	12	4	8	8
* Derby	13	3	10	6
Crystal Palace	14	3	11	6
Watford	14	0	14	0

** Does not include last night's match*

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Converse Crystal Palace 91 Watford Royals 108. ITT L&E Worthing Bears 88 Adidas Greater London Leopards 99.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Plymouth 91 Westminster 63 Richmond 99 Teesside 94 Second division: Bournemouth 86 Cardiff City 73; Flintshire 102 Wolverhampton 83, Northampton 89 Solent 93, Thames Valley 75 Southbank 76. Women: First division: Ipswich 58 Nottingham 70; Northampton 68 Spelthorne 55. Thames Valley 83 Rhondda 51 Second division: Chelmsford 36 Doncaster 81; Plymouth 60 Solent 34, Richmond 52 Wandsworth 63 Sheffield 44 Cardiff 41

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Friday. Boston 97 Washington 88 Philadelphia 106 Denver 91, Charlotte 79 Chicago 77, *Indiana 104 Miami 89, Utah 98 Dallas 66,* Seattle 111 Portland 98; Vancouver 95 Golden State 88, Atlanta 83 Los Angeles Clippers 74 Los Angeles Lakers 119 Houston 102. Saturday: Indiana 109 Washington 92 New Jersey 133 Denver 95 New York 95 Philadelphia 83, Charlotte 85 Cleveland 84 Detroit 93 Boston 77 Minnesota 112 Phoenix 101 San Antonio 107 Orlando 78, Chicago 97 Toronto 70; Miami 87 Milwaukee 94 Golden State 95 Sacramento 91.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	15	6	714	—
Orlando	16	8	667	½
New York	13	9	591	2½
New Jersey	12	10	545	3½
Boston	9	12	429	6
Washington	9	14	391	7
Philadelphia	6	14	300	8½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	16	5	.762	—
Charlotte	14	7	667	2
Cleveland	14	7	667	2
Indiana	13	8	619	3
Chicago	13	9	.591	3½
Milwaukee	11	11	500	5½
Detroit	11	12	478	6
Toronto	2	20	091	14½

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	12	6	667	—
Utah	13	8	619	½
San Antonio	12	10	545	2
Minnesota	9	12	429	4½
Vancouver	8	14	364	6
Dallas	5	16	238	8½
Denver	2	19	095	11½

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	17	5	773	—
LA Lakers	16	5	762	½
Phoenix	13	6	684	2½
Portland	13	7	650	3
Sacramento	7	15	.318	10
Golden State	4	16	.200	12
LA Clippers	4	18	182	13

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Third leg (Fremantle to Sydney) Positions (at 12.00 GMT, with miles to Sydney): 1, EF Language 1,869.5 2, Swedish Match (Swe) 1,869.3 3, Merit Cup (Monaco) 1,870.4 4, Toshiba (US) 1,870.9, 5, Silk Cut (GB) 1,872.5 6, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 1,875. 7, EF Education (Swe) 1,875.7 8, Chessie Racing (US) 1,877.1 9, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 1,877.7

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Nottingham 3 Manchester 6, Bracknell 4 Cardiff 1 Basingstoke 2 Ayr 6

EXPRESS CUP: Sheffield 7 Newcastle 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Buffalo 3 Carolina 2 (OT) Edmonton 3 Detroit 2 New Jersey 5 Montreal 2 Florida 4 New York Rangers 3, Philadelphia 3 Chicago 2 San Jose 1 Dallas 0 Calgary 3 Colorado 1 Phoenix 2 Pittsburgh 2 (OT) Anaheim 6 Washington 4 Saturday: New York Islanders 4 Florida 1 Boston 4 Montreal 2 Tampa Bay 3 Ottawa 1 New Jersey 3 Toronto 0; Edmonton 4 St Louis 1, Los Angeles 2 Washington 2 (OT) Colorado 5 Vancouver 2

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
New Jersey	22	9	0	94	55	44
Philadelphia	17	9	6	91	75	40
Washington	15	12	6	99	91	36
NY Islanders	13	15	4	87	87	30
NY Rangers	9	14	11	87	95	29
Florida	11	16	5	80	96	27
Tampa Bay	6	20	4	57	99	16

Northeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Pittsburgh	18	10	6	95	90	42
Montreal	18	12	4	102	85	40
Boston	15	12	5	80	82	35
Ottawa	13	15	4	80	77	30
Carolina	12	16	5	87	94	29
Buffalo	10	14	6	76	81	26

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Dallas	21	9	4	106	71	46
St Louis	20	11	3	100	78	43
Detroit	19	8	5	107	77	43
Phoenix	13	14	5	85	89	31
Chicago	10	15	6	68	80	26
Toronto	10	15	5	65	81	25

Pacific division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Colorado	17	6	9	102	86	43
Los Angeles	12	13	6	92	87	30
Anaheim	12	15	6	76	95	30
Edmonton	11	16	7	82	101	29
San Jose	11	18	3	80	96	25
Calgary	9	18	7	87	102	25
Vancouver	9	19	4	91	116	22

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Wanted: 20 people to run the marathon as fundraisers for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. By **John Goodbody**

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

A chance to go the distance for Diana

CHRIS HARRIS

Chris Moon outside Kensington Palace: "Any healthy person can do the marathon"

ALAN WELLER

Diana, Princess of Wales, with Sir Jimmy Savile. Adults of all ages and abilities can enter

Chris Brasher, the marathon's founder, and the Princess

The event is already 100 per cent oversubscribed, but today *The Times* is able to offer readers 20 places in the 1998 Flora London Marathon to help to raise more than the target of £5 million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

The Times 20 will be part of Team Flora, in which all the runners will raise funds for the Memorial Fund, one of the two official charities for the race next year. A special panel has been set up to select readers wanting to "Run for Diana" through the streets of London on Sunday, April 26.

The complete results of the race — from the international heroes and heroines at the front to the determined joggers at the back — will also be published by *The Times*.

There has already been unprecedented interest in the 1998 event. A record 100,000 people applied to enter, including 20,000 who specifically responded to an invitation to run for the Memorial Fund. Two hundred and fifty have been selected. A total of 41,500 are being accepted to take part in the marathon, one of Britain's most popular sports events.

This year it was televised in more than 100 countries, and 600,000 people lined the streets to cheer on the 29,135 competitors who ran from Greenwich to the Mall, triumphantly finishing the 26-mile, 385-yard course.

The fund-raising event will be poignant for many competitors because they will be running on the streets where the coffin of the Princess was *carried on September* 6. It will also be ten years since she was the official starter.

We cannot accept applications from people who have already been informed that *they have been selected to take* part in the 1998 race. Our places are open to those who have been rejected or who feel inspired to run the course. Both men and women, experienced runners and novices, will be considered.

The five-member panel will be scrutinising the applications to select the lucky 20, plus five reserves. The board *of selection, all of whom have* run marathons, will consist of: Chris Moon, the captain of Team Flora, who lost his lower right arm and leg when a landmine blew up in Mozambique and who subsequently worked with the Princess in her campaign against landmines; Andy Etchells, founder Editor of *Running* magazine and manager of Team Flora *on behalf of the race; John* Bryant, deputy editor of *The Times*; Patrick Sherriff, marketing and promotions manager of *The Times*; and myself, John Goodbody, sports news correspondent of *The Times*.

The names of the chosen 20 will be published in *The Times* on Monday, January 19, and the newspaper will then highlight some of the runners' *stories and preparations in the* build-up to the event.

All the members of Team Flora will be supported and helped with all aspects of marathon running and fund-raising — from training and nutrition to self-motivation — by a specially selected support team. All the money raised by the 250 runners will go to the *memorial fund as all adminis*tration costs will be covered by the Flora London Marathon.

The spirit needed to take part in the race is exemplified by Chris Moon, who has run 11 marathons since losing two limbs in 1995. He says that he wants to recruit people who felt inspired to help the causes that the Princess supported.

"I hope people who have *never considered running* a marathon or raising money will come forward. It is something that any reasonably healthy person can do if they have the determination or will," he says.

These are the very qualities that Mr Moon has constantly displayed himself, attracting such attention worldwide for his fortitude that he has been invited to carry the torch at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games in Japan in February.

He has never considered himself a victim even though he suffered horrific injuries. He points out that he chose to work in mined areas for the Hazardous Areas Life Support Organisation (Halo) Trust, a *British charity specialising in* mine clearance, whereas people who actually live there have no choice.

After leaving hospital Mr Moon did a master's degree in security management and now runs a small company MTB (Making the Best — his philosophy in life), *which solves problems in the* fields of human resource development and security management.

Less than a year after leaving hospital, Mr Moon also completed the London Marathon in just over five-and-a-half hours. Then, last April, he became the first leg amputee to finish the 140-mile Great Sahara Run, described as the toughest race on earth.

The incentive of helping others, while fulfilling the ambition of completing a marathon, has been a feature of every competitor since the event was first held in 1981. The charm of the race is that adults of both sexes and all abilities can follow the elite along the route.

No other British sports event has captured the imagination of the public in its first few years so intensely as the London Marathon. Many people watch the race on television and then vow to run it themselves the following year.

The event also binds together the people of London. As Chris Chataway, who, with *Chris Brasher, the founder of* the race, paced Roger Bannister when he became the first man to run a mile in under four minutes, put it: "Chris Brasher has done more for the corporate spirit of London than anyone since Adolf Hitler."

For those readers of *The Times* who are fortunate enough to be selected for the event, *running through the* crowded streets of the capital to raise money for such a worthwhile cause in the memory of a unique woman will be an experience that they will never forget.

SPORT FOR ALL

THE TIMES DIANA TEAM COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Readers of The Times are invited to take part in the challenge of a lifetime — a place in the Diana Team for the 1998 Flora London Marathon. We have 20 places to allocate to our readers who must be over 18. Read the form below carefully: the judges will base their decision on what you reveal in this form. All the winners who will take part in the marathon on April 26 will be asked to sign a pledge form relating to their commitment to raise funds for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and to remit such funds by May 31, 1998. Our entry forms for the chance to win a place in the Diana Team should reach the following address by January 9, 1998: The Times Diana Team, Flora London Marathon, PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY. Judging will take place on January 14 and the winners will be informed by telephone by January 19.

Title.................... **Initials** ....

Surname ....

Address ....

....

....

Day tel ....

Eve tel ....

Age .... **Female** ☐ **Male** ☐

Occupation ....

Which category do you wish to enter?

Men ☐ **Women** ☐ **Handicapped** ☐

Do you suffer from any illness/es?

....

Have you been in hospital for an operation?
If yes, state what and when

....

....

Have you, a relative or friend, ever met Princess Diana? If yes, describe the occasion

....

....

....

Have you, a relative or friend, any connection with any of the Diana, Princess of Wales, charities, or a special reason for wanting to be in the Diana team? Describe your connection

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

Have you ever competed in a marathon before?

....

How much money did you raise?

....

For which organisation/s?

....

....

Have you raised funds for any organisation/s before?

....

Describe how much you raised and how you did it

....

....

....

....

Do you have any outstanding achievements of which you are proud? Tell us about them

....

....

....

....

What are your hobbies?

....

....

State, in not more than 50 words, why you deserve a place in this year's marathon

....

....

....

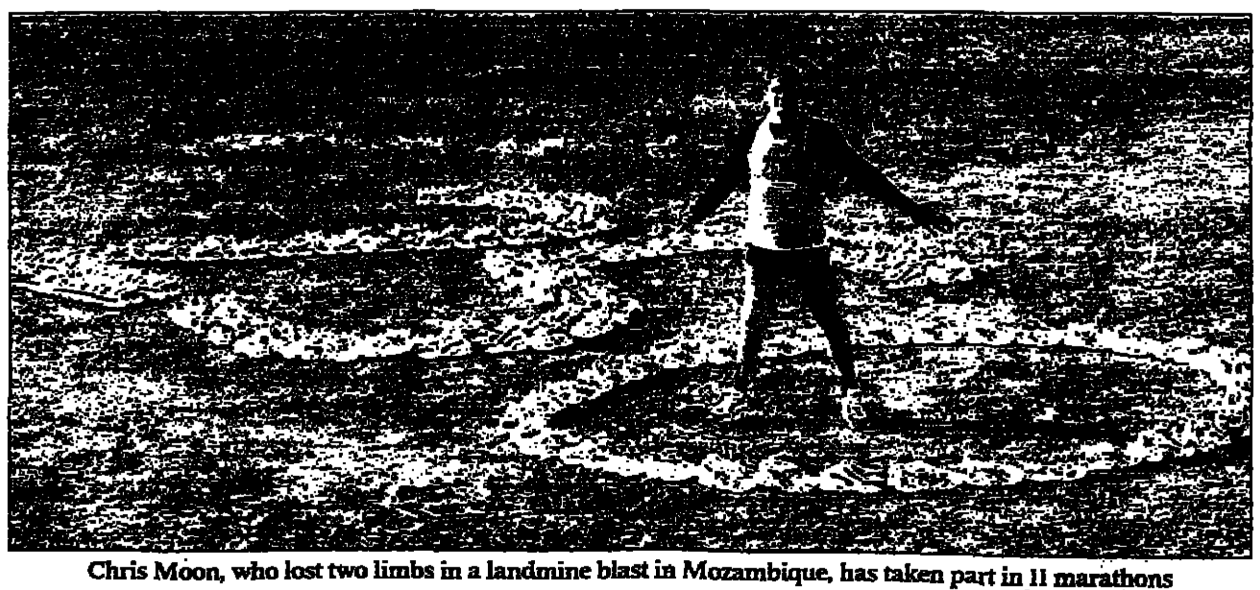
....

....

....

Please send the completed entry form to:
***The Times*/Diana Team, London Marathon,**
PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY

CHANGING TIMES



Chris Moon, who lost two limbs in a landmine blast in Mozambique, has taken part in 11 marathons

Impermissible to leave law to jury

Ward v Chief Constable of West Midlands Police

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Otton

[Judgment December 11]

The role of the jury in civil cases was to make specific findings on the various issues raised in the case to enable the judge to make the final decision on liability and if the judge failed to direct the jury properly on those issues, it would render the jury's answers to which the judge would make his ruling on the law unsatisfactory and make his decision on liability unsafe.

Furthermore, as a matter of law, certain issues in false imprisonment and malicious prosecution cases could not be decided by the jury so that it was impermissible for the judge to pose or the jury to answer questions on those issues.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Shane Ward, from the decision dated October 25, 1996 of Judge Hamilton sitting with a jury at Birmingham County Court whereby he dismissed the plaintiff's claim for damages for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution against the defendant, the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police.

On March 6, 1993 the plaintiff was arrested in Birmingham on suspicion of having committed an offence contrary to section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986. On June 16 he was acquitted.

Mr Peter Herbert, who did not appear below, for the plaintiff; Mr Richard Perks for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that it was well established that the burden of proof was on the defendant to show that the imprisonment was not false but lawful.

Accordingly, the defendant had to prove on a balance of probabilities that:

(i) the plaintiff had engaged in offensive conduct (ii) within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress (iii) PC Rawlings, who gave evidence at the trial, had warned him to stop (iv) the plaintiff then engaged in further acts (v) which the officer reasonably believed constituted an offence under section 5.

At the end of the evidence, the judge conferred with counsel in the absence of the jury as to the form and substance of a number of questions which they were required to answer.

The judge began his summing up, handed the agreed list of questions to the jury, then reviewed the evidence relevant to each of the questions. He did not, however, give any directions on the law of false imprisonment or malicious prosecution. He gave no definition or directions pertaining to section 5 of the 1986 Act.

Two hours after retiring the jury sent the judge a note with the following question: "Could you please clarify question 9. We are having problems with the meaning of the question."

Question 9 was: "Has the defendant satisfied you of the fact that PC Rawlings reasonably suspected the conduct of Mr Ward was offensive conduct?" The judge then responded with a direction on question 9.

Mr Herbert levelled several criticisms at the judge's summing up. He submitted that the judge should have at the outset given the jury directions on section 5, in particular what constituted "offensive conduct". The direction in response to the jury's note did not remedy the omission. Moreover, it was defective in that it was incomplete and misleading.

Mr Herbert also submitted that the judge fell into serious error by allowing question 9 to go to the jury. Even though the question was agreed by counsel it was a fundamental error in that the issue of reasonableness should not be considered by a jury but by the judge alone.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that Mr Herbert's first submission was well founded. The summing up was unsatisfactory in several respects.

The jury received no instruction on the law of false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. They were given no direction on what constituted an offence under section 5, the powers of arrest of a police constable under subsection (4) or what conduct constituted offensive conduct under subsection (5).

It was not sufficient merely to give a preliminary explanation of the purpose of the questions and answers. The jury needed a succinct direction on the relevant law so that they had a framework within which to address the questions.

Moreover, the further direction to question 9 was incomplete in that it did not indicate that the behaviour for which the plaintiff was arrested must have occurred within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress. That defect coupled with its lateness did not cure the earlier omission.

In his Lordship's judgment the cumulative effect of those defects amounted to a misdirection to the jury on matters of fundamental importance, so as to render the answers to the question an unsatisfactory basis for the judge to make his findings on the law and rendered his decision to dismiss the claim unsafe.

His Lordship was also satisfied that the appeal should succeed on the second ground advanced by counsel, namely that question 9 should not have been asked.

It was necessary to define the role of the jury in civil cases where the jury would not simply be asked to give a general verdict but a special verdict consisting of answers to a series of questions. The fundamental principle was that the jury made specific findings on the various issues raised in the case. Thus the jury was presented with a questionnaire to answer which dealt with the disputed issues of fact.

The jury made findings of fact. The jury's findings then provide the judge with material so that he could give a ruling. In principle, that meant the judge rather than the jury made the final decision on liability. As a matter of law certain issues in false imprisonment and malicious prosecution cases could not be decided by the jury.

His Lordship was satisfied that it was impermissible for the judge to pose or the jury to answer a question as to what PC Rawlings reasonably suspected, or reasonably believed. Those were issues for the judge alone to determine depending on the answers to the other questions.

Moreover, whichever way the jury answered the question it would have placed the judge in a serious difficulty if he took the opposite view as a matter of law.

Accordingly, his Lordship would set aside the judgment for the defendant and order a new trial.

Lord Justice Hobhouse gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Millett agreed with both.

Solicitors: Maurice Andrews, Birmingham; Mr John M. Kilbey, Birmingham.

Correction of name relates back

Signet Group plc v Hammerson UK Properties Ltd

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment December 9]

When leave was given under Order 20, rule 5(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court for an amendment to correct the name of a party to proceedings and that would have the effect of substituting a new party, the correction related back to the commencement of the proceedings. It did not matter that the amendment was made outside the statutory time limit for commencing proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the landlord, Hammerson UK Properties Ltd, from an order of Judge Lowe at Willesden County Court on May 16, 1997, upholding a decision of District Judge Gilford on April 9, 1997 substituting the tenant, Ernest Jones Ltd, for Signet Group plc on an originating application under section 25 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

Order 20, rule 5 provides: "(3) An amendment to correct the name of a party may be allowed ... notwithstanding that it is alleged that the effect of the amendment will be to substitute a new party if the court is satisfied that the mistake sought to be corrected was a genuine mistake and was not misleading or such as to cause any reasonable doubt as to the identity of the person intending to sue..."

Mr Michael Driscoll, QC and Mr Andrew P. D. Walker for the landlord; Mr Simon Berry, QC amd Mr Guy Fetherstonhaugh for the tenant.

LORD WOOLF, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the issue was the effect of the misdescription of a party in an application under Part II of the 1954 Act.

Signet Group plc was the parent company of a group of companies which operated a chain of retail jewellery stores throughout the country. Most of its shops traded under various trading styles within its ownership: H. Samuel, Ernest Jones and Leslie Davis were some of the names of limited companies within the Signet Group.

Hammerson UK Properties plc was the landlord of Unit E7, Brent Cross Shopping Centre, Hendon, in the London Borough of Barnet, and was the successor in title to another company which granted a *lease to Zales Jewellers Ltd in* March 1981. Zales Jewellers later changed its name to Ernest Jones Ltd.

In June 1996 the landlord served on Ernest Jones at its registered office, a notice under section 25 of the 1954 Act stating that if Ernest Jones applied to the court under the Act for the grant of a new tenancy, the landlord would oppose it under provisions in section 30 which enabled a landlord to oppose a tenancy application if it was prepared to provide alternative accommodation.

In July solicitors served a counter-notice on the landlord stating that they acted for "Ernest *Jones Ltd" and that "our clients"* were not willing to give up possession of the property. Correspondence ensued relating to the suitability of the alternative accommodation being offered.

By section 25 a tenant could apply to the court for a new tenancy but there was a strict timetable for making an application. An application which was issued in Willesden County Court complied with the timescale laid down in section 29(3) but the applicant was named as "Signet Group plc" and not "Ernest Jones Ltd". After the mistake was discovered an application to amend was made under Order 20, rule 5(3) by both Signet and Ernest Jones.

It was submitted that in the circumstances Order 20, rule 5(3) enabled the court to give leave to amend if it was thought just to do so even though the application for leave was made outside the time limit laid down by section 29(3) of the 1954 Act.

His Lordship said that there was always power without Order 20, rule 5(3) to correct a misnomer even if the limitation period had expired. What Order 20, rule 5(3) did was to allow the correction of a name even if that had the effect of substituting a new party.

That order had been construed in a variety of decision, including *Evans v Charrington & Co Ltd* ([1983] 1 QB 810) and *The Al Tawah* ([1991] 1 Lloyd's Rep 201).

In those two decisions it could be said that the way Order 20, rule 5(3) had been construed went further than curing the injustice demonstrated by *Davies v Elsby Brothers Ltd* ([1961] 1 WLR 170). But that did could not alter what the rule was designed to do.

The rule itself was designed to allow a correction which related back. Thus if a party could bring itself within that rule, then a correction would relate back. The only question in the present case was thus whether the plaintiff could bring itself within Order 20, rule 5(3) on the facts.

In the circumstances it was clear on the authority of *Evans v Charrington* that Order 20, rule 5(3) applied and the only question was whether *it was just to allow* the amendment. No criticism had been directed at the view that it was just, nor could it have been.

Solicitors: Eversheds; Theodore Goddard.

Solicitors risk claim of constructive trust

***United Mizrahi Bank Ltd* v Doherty and Others**

Before Mr Michael Burton, QC

[Judgment November 28]

A proviso in a *Mareva* [asset-freezing] *injunction permitting* a defendant to use assets otherwise frozen for reasonable legal expenses prevented such use from being a breach of the order and a contempt of court.

It was no guarantee in advance that, if at trial the plaintiff was successful in establishing a proprietary claim against the defendant such that money so expended turned out to have been the plaintiff's, the solicitors acting for the defendant could avoid a claim of constructive trust for knowing receipt being raised against them.

Mr Michael Burton, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, so held in the Chancery Division on a motion by John Doherty and Carmel Jacqueline Doherty seeking an order against United Mizrahi Bank Ltd that notwithstanding the bank's alleged proprietary claim to various properties, Mrs Doherty, the fifth defendant, was at liberty to sell one *property registered in her name* and to apply the proceeds of sale in discharging the legal costs of her solicitors, Lewis Silkin.

Mr Jonathan Crow for Mr and Mrs Doherty; Mr David Richards, QC and Mr Mathew Collings for the bank.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the bank was bringing an action against Mr Doherty for breach of his duty to the bank in which it alleged that he wrongfully obtained money from customers which had ended up in the hands of his wife and certain companies and had been used for the purchase of properties including the properties the subject matter of the application.

The bank thus had a claim for breach of trust against Mr Doherty and in constructive trust and tracing against the other defendants.

In the course of the action the bank obtained a *Mareva* injunction freezing the Dohertys' assets here and abroad but incorporating the usual provisos including one allowing expenditure for reasonable legal expenses. Mr Justice Rattee, on the Dohertys' application, had confirmed that they *would not be in breach of that* injunction by utilising certain assets held by them to fund their reasonable legal expenses of defending the action. But he added the proviso that nothing in his order should deprive the bank of any proprietary claim it might have to those assets.

The Dohertys and Lewis Silkin remained concerned that if moneys were expended on legal costs it would nevertheless be suggested that they were expending moneys which might turn out to be the property of the bank which would constitute a further breach of trust and that the recipients of those moneys such as, for example, Lewis Silkin, might be alleged to be in breach of constructive trust as a result of knowing receipt, or, although it appeared wholly unlikely, dishonest assistance.

They therefore issued the present notice of motion effectively seeking in advance the court's determination that the expenditure on the costs allowed by the *Mareva* order would deprive the bank of *any such claim of constructive* trust either against the Dohertys or any recipient such as Lewis Silkin.

In fact, unless such an order was obtained, Lewis Silkin had stated that they would or might feel obliged to come off the record. That would leave the Dohertys without legal representation at the trial.

The issue was not whether the defendants were permitted to use the moneys to spend on legal costs without being in contempt of court for they were already so permitted by the terms of the two orders so far. The issue was whether the defendants could obtain in advance the court's sanction that moneys could be so spent without the risk of constructive trust claims.

That would not only be relevant in cases where there were injunctions with or without provisos, but could and would apply in any case in which there was a proprietary claim by a plaintiff against a defendant where the defendant's solicitors were concerned that the moneys they were being paid by the defendant might be money which at the end of the day would turn out to be the plaintiff's money.

Mr Richards submitted that there was no warrant for the court to grant a sanction in advance. He referred to the limited ambit of the court's jurisdiction to allow, pre-trial, and without any judgment as to the eventual merits, the expenditure of a trust fund, or an alleged trust fund, on the costs of one or other of the parties. An exception, Mr Crow said, was *Finers (a Firm) v Miro* ([1991] 1 WLR 35).

It appeared that the ambit of a claim in constructive trust against solicitors in the light of such authorities as *Carl Zeiss Stiftung v Herbert Smith & Co* ([1969] 2 Ch 276) and *Gamlen v Rochem* (CA Transcript 777 of 1979) was such that the risk for solicitors was not overly great. His Lordship hoped that was right.

It could not be right in the interests of litigants that solicitors should be looking over their shoulders just because they were not able to be completely confident in their chances of success for their client or just because the opposing litigant was busy asserting that he had an unanswerable case. That *should not prevent solicitors from* acting in a difficult case.

But if the court was to be asked in advance to sanction an act which would otherwise be a breach of trust, so that a potential third party would not be a constructive trustee who otherwise might have been, the court would have to be given the full picture.

There might well be a difference between a solicitor who was simply finding it difficult to be confident that his client would succeed, perhaps even beginning to think that his client was going to lose (situation A) and a solicitor who had information in his possession, which perhaps he was under no obligation to disclose, but which nevertheless led him to conclude that his client was certain to lose (situation B).

It seemed wrong that the court should bind in advance the conduct of the solicitor in situation B in the same way as the solicitor in situation A.

If there was jurisdiction for a solicitor to have that cleared up preemptively then it might well be there could be such cases. But in *his Lordship's view this was not* such a case, namely a case in which the court had no idea whether there was any conceivable *risk for the defendants' solicitors.*

He could have no idea whether there was any danger such that it would be positively wrong to exempt that liability. In those circumstances he came to the conclusion that, sympathetic though he was in the particular facts both to the defendant and the solicitors, and knowing the solicitors in question believing that there was no possible risk of situation B in this case, and keen as he was that the action should go ahead with legal representation on the part of the defendants, he was satisfied that it was not a case where he could or should say, in advance, that there would be no breach of trust by the expenditure of those moneys.

He therefore contented himself with saying that the defendants would not be in breach of the injunction if they used the money to fund reasonable legal expenses.

Solicitors: Lewis Silkin; Nabarro Nathanson.

Omission of warning fatal

Montgomery and Another v Sabella Ltd

Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment December 2]

The omission of the boxed warning to act quickly from the head of a landlord's notice to a tenant terminating the tenancy pursuant to section 25 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 was fatal to the validity of the notice.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the appeal of Sabella Ltd from the order of Mr Michael Hart, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, whereby on a motion in the Chancery Division he ordered, inter alia, that a notice served by Sabella Ltd the landlord, on Gerald Alexander Montgomery and Trendtown Ltd, the tenants of premises at 76 Grove Park Road, Chiswick, pursuant to section 25, was invalid.

Ms Joanne R. Moss for Sabella; Mr Gerald Montgomery in person; Mr Adrian Iles for Trendtown.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that section 25 of the 1954 Act permitted a landlord to terminate a tenancy by a notice in the prescribed form. The current form prescribed by the regulations was Form 1 in Schedule 2 to the Landlord and Tenant Act Part II (Notices) Regulations (SI 1983 No 133) which, by paragraph 2(3) included "a form substantially to the like effect" as Form 1.

In the present case the tenants on receipt of a section 25 notice that contained several omissions, following advice from their solicitors that the notices were clearly bad, decided not to serve counter-notices or take steps to secure a new tenancy.

At the head of the prescribed form was a large and prominent box in which was printed in capitals: "Important — This notice is intended to bring your tenancy to an end. If your want to continue to occupy your property you must act quickly. Read the notice and all the notes carefully. If you are in any doubt about the action you should take, get advice immediately eg from a solicitor or surveyor or a citizens advice bureau."

It was established that matters that were irrelevant to the recipient tenant's rights in a particular case might be omitted without affecting the validity of the notice: see *Sun Alliance Co v Hayman* ([1975] 1 WLR 177) and *Tegerdine v Brooks* ((1978) 36 P & CR 261).

But the deputy judge had found the form in the present case deficient in relevant respects in that it failed to inform the recipient of his rights and obligations under the Act so that it could not be considered "substantially to like effect" and was accordingly invalid.

He nevertheless gave the landlord leave to appeal his order on the basis of *Morris v Patel* ([1987] 1 EGLR 75) in which Lord Justice Dillon, sitting as a single judge of the Court of Appeal, was reported to have held that the omission of the warning to act quickly was not *necessarily fatal to the validity* of the notice if the tenant obtained legal advice and took appropriate steps according to the timetable.

His Lordship held that *Morris v Patel* was not a decision that the warning was irrelevant and could be omitted and in so far as it was, it was not good law. Without the boxed warning at the top of the notice it was invalid.

Lord Justice Otton and the Vice-Chancellor delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Gardner Weller, Westminster; H. Omar & Co, Battersea.

One special hours certificate at a time for any pub

Regina v Stafford Crown Court, Ex parte Chief Constable of Staffordshire

Before Mr Justice Laws

[Judgment December 3]

Two special hours certificates could not subsist in relation to the same licensed premises; therefore where a special hours certificate had been granted there could be no application for a further certificate on more favourable terms.

Mr Justice Laws so held in the *Queen's Bench Division when* granting the application of the Chief Constable of Staffordshire for certiorari to quash the decision of Stafford Crown Court to dismiss his appeal against the decision of Cannock Justices to grant a special hours certificate to Mr S. Shipley when such a certificate already existed.

A publican had been granted a special hours certificate to govern his opening hours but in terms more restricted as to time than had been applied for. His appeal to the crown court was unsuccessful and, at the time of the present action, his application for judicial review of *the crown court's decision was still* awaiting judgment.

In the hope of obtaining a favourable licensing regime while that first action progressed, the publican applied for a second special hours certificate with more liberal hours. The second certificate, the subject of the present application, was granted in the same terms as the first but on appeal to the crown court it was varied so as to be more liberal as to time.

The publican had been unwilling to surrender his original licence before the High Court hearing and thereby possibly prejudice his case relating to it as significant questions of law had been raised which were important to his associated brewery.

Section 76 of the Licensing Act 1964 provides: "(1) This section applies ... during the time that — (a) there is in force ... a special hours certificate ... and (b) the section is applied under subsection (7) of this section...

"(7) The holder of the licence ... may apply this section, or terminate its application, from such day as he may fix by notice in writing to the chief officer of police..."

Mr James Quirke for the chief constable; Mr John Saunders, QC, for the publican; the crown court did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said the 1964 Act no more made express provision relating to the surrender of a special hours certificate than it did in relation to the prevention of two or more special hours certificates having effect at the same time.

Mr Saunders' submission was *that there was all the difference* between two licences having effect and two licences being in force. That was an important distinction because, while no doubt a special hours certificate was in force from the moment it was granted, it had no effect until the licensee gave notice under section 76(7) of the 1964 Act.

Mr Saunders submitted that no difficulty arose if the licensee applied only one special hours certificate under the subsection. If an earlier certificate was effective because of an earlier notice under section 76(7) its application could and should be terminated by notice to that effect under the same subsection.

But that was not the procedure which section 76(7) contemplated. It provided for notice to be given to apply the section, not the certificate. Obviously, it would be possible to draft a notice which referred to a particular certificate, but that would be to give a notice quite beyond and different from what the subsection provided.

Mr Quirke also submitted that *the possibility of multiple certificates* would invite forum shopping. A licensee might make successive applications to the justices, obtaining successive certificates, until he obtained one with limitations that suited him, or no limitations, or, if he did not, might revert to and apply the least favourable of those he had obtained.

There was, as Mr. Quirke acknowledged, nothing in principle to prevent repeated applications where earlier applications had failed. His Lordship could not believe that the scheme of the Act contemplated or allowed successive applications for special hours certificates where an earlier application had succeeded with or without limitations.

There was a clear available route provided by section 78A(4) of the 1964 Act, as inserted by section 5(2) of the Licensing Act 1988, by which variations of limitations might be applied for. That was the route that should be used.

There was no place in the 1964 Act for the coexistence of multiple special needs certificates in relation to the same premises.

Solicitors: Mr Clive Alcock, Stafford; Jeffrey Green Russell.

Scots Law Report December 15 1997 House of Lords

Whether jury awarded unjust damages

Girvan v Inverness Farmers Dairy (No 2)

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 6]

In Scotland, in considering whether a new trial should be granted under section 29(1)(d) of the Court of Session Act 1988 on the ground of excess or inadequacy of damages, the principle in *Landell v Landell* ((1841) 3 D 819) applied and the question was whether, taking a fairly broad approach, the jury had committed a gross injustice or reached a palpably wrong result.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the defenders, Inverness Farmers Dairy, from an Extra Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (Lord McCluskey, Lord Kirkwood and Lord Abernethy) (1996 SLT 631) who by a majority (Lord Abernethy dissenting) had refused the defenders' motion for a new trial on the matter of the damages payable by them to the pursuer, David Martin Girvan.

Mr M. S. Jones, QC and Miss Marion Caldwell for the defenders; Mr C. N. McEachran, QC and Mr J. R. Doherty, QC, for the pursuer.

LORD HOPE said that the pursuer sought damages for injuries sustained in a road accident for which the defenders had admitted liability.

The action, now concerned only with the quantum of damages, had been sent for trial by jury under section 11 of the 1988 Act. On December 8, 1993 the jury had assessed the total damages at £193,080. That included £120,000 for solatium, divided into £70,000 for the past and £50,000 for the future.

On the defenders' motion under section 29 of the Act, the Second Division (1995 SLT 735) had held that the award for solatium was excessive and granted a new trial. On May 11, 1995 the second jury had awarded total damages of £165,530, including solatium of £35,000 for the past and £60,000 for the future. The defenders had then enrolled the fresh motion for a new trial that had been refused by the Extra Division.

It was very unusual in Scotland for a jury's award to be challenged twice in the same action. It was also unusual for one of the judges in the Inner House to dissent on the question whether there should *be a new trial.*

Those features revealed a feeling of unease among practitioners in Scotland about the relationship between awards of solatium made by juries and those made by judges and about the test to be applied to determine whether a jury's award was excessive.

The Inner House could not substitute its own award for that of the jury. The assessment of damages remained a matter for the jury. In practice, in England such cases were now tried exclusively by judges.

In *Landell v Landell* the whole court had considered the meaning of "excess of damages". There had been a division on the question whether the damages in that case were excessive and it was to the reasons given by the majority that one had to look to find the grounds for the decision.

They had said (at p825): "It is clear that, in order to warrant the application of the term 'excessive', the damages must be held to exceed, not what the court might think enough, but even that latitude, which, in a question of amount so very vague, any set of reasonable men could be permitted to indulge. The excess must be such as to raise ... the moral conviction that the jury, whether from wrong intention, or incapacity, or some mistake, have committed gross injustice..."

In *Young v Glasgow Tramway and Omnibus Co Ltd* ((1882) 10 R 242, 245) Lord President Inglis had said: "It seems to me that, unless it can be said that the verdict ought not to have been for more than one-half of the sum awarded, there is not ... any room for interference."

That seemed to be the origin of what was later referred to as the working rule of 100 per cent permissible error: *McGinley v Pacitti* (1950 SC 364, 368-369) per Lord President Cooper, who had said that it was out of touch with modern practice and had become obsolete. He had, however, been *careful to say that special considerations* would continue to apply to awards of pure solatium.

It seemed to his Lordship that the so-called working rule might still have a useful part to play in relation to solatium for personal injuries. It could be seen as no more than a convenient way of illustrating the margin for error that had to be allowed in such a case before a jury's award could be said to be so extravagant that no other jury would repeat it.

Having reviewed the authorities, his Lordship thought that there could be no doubt that the proper approach to the question of excess of damages remained that described in *Landell v Landell*.

If a series of new trials was to be avoided, a fairly broad approach had still to be taken to the question whether the jury had committed a gross injustice or reached a palpably wrong result.

The working rule could not be treated as a precise formula. It was no more than a rule of thumb, or a check, that the court might use as a guide to the decision in each case. It was really no more than a convenient way of describing the test laid down in *Landell v Landell* in order to illustrate the width of the approach.

A passage in *McCallum v Paterson (No 2)* (1969 SC 85, 88), per Lord President Clyde, contained a somewhat extravagant view of the intention of Parliament in enacting the Jury Trials (Scotland) Act 1815.

The idea that there could be a succession of abortive trials, all on the question of the appropriate award of damages, was far removed from the cautious approach in *Landell v Landell* to the question of excess.

If that question was approached in the right way, one new trial should be sufficient to correct the excess, because it was unlikely that a second jury would reach a result that the court would be able to say was manifestly unjust. If it arrived at a figure substantially the same as that reached by the first, that would tend to support the first's figure as being one that a reasonable jury would award.

The majority in the Extra Division had been right to refuse a new trial. There were now two jury awards, and the second was £25,000 less than the first. When account was taken of that, it was impossible to say that no other jury would award such a large sum.

It was unnecessary to apply the working rule, because a broad view of all the elements in the pursuer's claim and the fact that this was the second award on the evidence showed that it was not an excessive award of the kind described in *Landell v Landell*.

As Lord Abernethy had said (at p642), the question whether there should be a greater uniformity between awards by judges and those by juries was of considerable importance, but the question whether changes were desirable was a difficult one on which their Lordships should not express an opinion. It was best left for consideration by the Scottish Law Commission so that a more complete study might be undertaken.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mackay and Lord Slynn agreed with Lord Hope and Lord Clyde delivered an opinion concurring in dismissing the appeal.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain for Brodies, WS, Edinburgh; Dyson Bell Martin for Dundas & Wilson, CS, Edinburgh.

Court refused counsel leave

Thomas v The State

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council expressed its concern that the petitioner did not have an opportunity either in person or through alternative counsel to put before the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago any point that he might have sought to have raised, because the court had refused counsel appearing for the petitioner leave to withdraw despite being told that the petitioner had withdrawn instructions from counsel and had taken steps to instruct other counsel.

However the Judicial Committee (Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Hutton and Mr Justice Gault) on November 6 dismissed the petition of the petitioner, Keiron Thomas, for special leave to appeal from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago of his appeal against his conviction of murder.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that the petitioner had in terms instructed counsel to return the brief.

Counsel had no authority to announce himself as appearing on behalf of the petitioner and their Lordships hoped that in future cases, if the court was informed that instructions had been given to return the brief, the Court of Appeal would give the petitioner either the opportunity to address them himself or an opportunity to instruct alternative counsel.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AND
IN THE MATTER OF EVOLUTION HOLDINGS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at The Marlborough Hotel, Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QD on 23 December 1997 at 11.00 am for the purposes of dealing with Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
Secured creditors (unless they surrender their security) must give particulars of their security and its value if they wish to vote at the meeting.
The resolution to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator may be remunerated and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Insolvency Ac 1986, that a list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be examined free of charge at the offices of Baker Tilly, 2 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3ST, between 10 am and 4 pm on the two business days prior to the day of the meeting. A form of proxy which, if intended to be used for voting at the meeting, must be duly completed and lodged at the registered office of the company, 2 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3ST not later than 12 noon on the last business day before the meeting.
Dated: 8 December 1997
By Order of the Board
Martin Hodgson, Director

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,470.50	Allied Domecq†	525½	−27½	4.7	13.4
304.90	Bulmer (HP)	387½	−26	4.8	11.9
27.00	Burn Stewart	45½	−1	9.3	15.8
129.20	Glenmorangie A	950	..	1.8	22.6
12,392.60	Grand Met	582	+12½	3.2	18.7
11,072.60	Guinness	584	+12	3.3	16.1
403.50	Highland Distil	302½	−5	3.7	14.9
163.30	Matthew Clark	184½	−46	13.9	5.8
7.03	Merrydwn W	64½	−1	6.0	
4,077.80	SA Breweries†	1384½	−87½	2.6	

BANKS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
17,066.60	ABN-AMRO	1228¾	−16⅝	2.6	17.5
14,515.40	Abbey Nat	1028	+16	3.4	16.8
4,592.00	Alliance & Leic	789	+22	3.6	18.5
4,927.60	Allied Irish	582½	−5½	3.1	17.2
6,007.80	Aus New Z	403	−25½	5.1	
37,209.40	Bank America†	4562½	−153¼		
6,805.40	Bank Scotland	556	+1	2.0	15.4
24,850.80	Barclays	1635	+90	2.6	15.6
4,458.90	Bk of Ireland	912½	+38	2.3	20.0
37,798.60	Citicorp	7806¼	−537½		
6,686.30	Commerzbk	1668¾	+12½	2.8	
13,806.30	Dai Ichi Kan Y	443½		8.9	..
20,820.30	Deutsche Bk	4165¾	+234¾	1.5	
467.20	Espirito Santo	1181¼	+3½	3.1	
7,974.20	Fuji Bank Y	275¼	−31¼	1.4	53.6
13,547.00	HSBC	1560	−135	3.7	12.6
26,741.70	HSBC HK	1484	−131	3.9	12.0
18,348.10	Halifax	731	−3	2.5	24.6
550.40	Irish Perm	640	+5	2.4	17.7
39,768.50	Lloyds TSB	737	−33	2.4	21.5
12,080.10	Nat Aust Bk	807½	−24¾	4.8	
16,820.50	Nat West	977½	+37½	3.8	15.4
2,442.00	Northern Rock	550	−34½	2.1	21.7
6,579.00	Royal Bk Scott	785	+40½	3.5	15.0
6,881.50	Stand Chart	693	−65	2.8	12.1
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	£184¾		1.9	
6,530.10	Westpac	366¾	−13½	3.9	
5,032.00	Woolwich	314½	+5½	3.1	18.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
8,018.60	Bass	903	−18	3.9	15.9
18.10	Bk for Bee Bdr	54		4.2	17.4
51.90	Burtonwd Brw	153½	+2	5.8	13.3
256.30	City Centre Rest	132		2.4	30.5
2,447.30	Compass Gp	745	+36½	1.7	35.7
61.50	Eldridge P A'	290		2.7	
158.40	Enterprise Inns†	244	+½	3.8	
60.10	Fuller Sm A	432½	+5	3.1	13.8
1,205.40	Greenalls Grp	407½	−17½	4.9	10.1
425.00	Greene King	702½	+26½	3.0	14.3
28.00	Grosvenor Inns	197½	−2½	4.0	20.6
52.60	Groupe Chez Ger	281½		1.4	22.7
45.00	Hardy Hanson	225	+6	6.1	10.0
80.20	Holt J	2150	−35	3.5	12.0
45.30	Inn Business	59	+½	3.4	9.4
196.90	Mansfield†	301	+3½	3.0	12.4
247.60	Marston Thmp	267	−3	3.9	9.3
148.20	Morland	457½	−35½	3.7	
70.70	Old Eng Pub	256	−10½	1.2	30.2
2.56	Paramount	21½	+1½		
535.20	PizzaExpress	808½	−11½	0.5	41.8
31.60	Ramsdens (H)	340		1.8	30.1
296.60	Regent Inns	332½	+½	1.2	26.8
70.10	SFI	119	+4	0.7	25.4
4,452.70	Scot & New	720½	−19	3.9	14.2
378.20	Vaux Group	264½	−8½	5.4	10.9
661.10	Wetherspoon JD	338½	+14½	0.7	39.1
4,233.60	Whitbread†	864	−7	3.5	14.8
322.70	Wolverhmptn D	476	+1	5.0	10.5
224.70	Yates Bros	355½	+1	1.1	25.5
19.20	Young A'	662½		2.9	27.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
269.20	Brammer	579	−3½	3.5	14.0
5.20	Bridgend Gp†	13	..	1.8	38.4
24.10	Brit Fittings	95	..	5.9	7.8
11.50	Caffyns	348		4.7	7.8
73.50	Car Group	192½	..	3.1	..
37.20	Cavendish†	190½	−4½	3.6	7.6
36.00	Charles Sidney	86½	−½	4.8	12.4
18.60	Cook (DC)	43½		8.9	5.8
19.20	Dag Motors	99		10.1	6.4
18.70	Dennans B	105½		3.3	9.7
124.90	Diploma†	227½	+1	8.1	9.1
1,978.40	Electrocomps†	463	+3	2.2	24.9
90.30	Eurodis Elec	155½	+9	4.2	30.0
50.60	European Mot	94	..	7.8	7.3
93.10	Evans Halshaw	290	..	7.1	
7.36	Fife Indmar	47½		8.9	7.8
263.50	Finelist Grp	333½	+3½	2.9	14.8
23.20	Gardiner	21½		5.5	7.9
20.40	Glencherton	68	+3	2.8	11.1
8.50	Gowrings	95½		4.1	15.9
21.20	HR Owen	13		7.0	8.8
6.71	Handel†	22½		2.1	
221.40	Headlam†	326	+2½	2.3	19.7
6.10	Holders Tech	152½		5.3	12.5
30.30	ISA Intl	73½	+6	5.1	5.7
946.00	Inchcape†	178½	−32	6.9	11.8
6.21	Jacks (Wm)	57½		5.4	7.4
600.10	Kwik-Fit	337½	+3	2.2	18.5
511.60	Lex Service	448	+3	4.6	13.5
36.70	Lookers	110	+½	9.1	7.9
44.50	Middlesex	5½	−½	2.3	13.5
10.20	Mitsubles	19½	−½	3.1	
30.80	Norbain†	280	+2½	3.8	11.3
77.70	Northamber†	228	+4	1.4	15.9
228.70	Parkco	315½	+8	3.2	16.7
160.70	Pendragon	277½	−5	4.6	12.2
47.30	Perry Gp	180	−½	6.4	8.0
1,120.40	Premier Farnell	412½	−6	3.8	15.3
45.80	Quicks Group	121½	−1	7.7	8.0
27.00	REA	290		1.7	64.1
2.66	Reece	7½			50.2
10.80	Ronson	12			...
5.17	Ross Gp	3½	+¼		
29.40	Ryland	103½		4.9	9.8
27.00	SEP Ind	27½	−½	7.1	12.6
7.12	Saltire	27½	−2½	5.5	
111.70	Time Products†	206	−5	7.5	8.5
24.50	Tibbett Motor Grp†	163½	..	8.6	7.2
62.80	UMECO	400	+5	1.8	21.2
102.60	United Carrs Gp	86	+½	0.8	19.1
154.40	Vardy (Reg)	270	−4	3.5	12.9
93.40	WF Elect	639½	−½	2.9	21.9
35.30	Wilshaw†	37¼	+¼	2.8	10.2
102.20	Wyko	144½	−3½	2.6	16.0
34.60	Young (H)	154	−2½	3.8	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
530.40	Antofagasta	337½	−10	1.9	17.3
206.50	Ascot Hldgs	254		2.6	11.1
10,548.00	Broken Hill	530¾	−41½	3.9	14.4
7,329.00	BTR	181½	−1	6.1	6.3
16,902.10	BAT†	544	−3	6.0	13.4
1,156.20	Brierley Inv	43½	−½	11.0	7.0
1,328.40	Cookson	193	−19½	5.2	12.1
27.90	Cosalt	226½	−4	6.4	
323.90	DCC†	387½	+7½	2.5	14.5
2,380.80	Gallaher	345	+17	7.0	10.8
857.90	Harrison Crsfld	119½	−4	9.2	13.4
14,105.50	Hutch Whamp	380	−44½	3.0	23.8
2,050.10	Imperial Tobc†	393½	+3½	6.8	9.7
3,049.70	Jardine Math	273½	−49¼	5.5	10.6
707.00	Lonrho	89		6.7	9.3
105.60	McLeod Russel	169		5.3	
412.20	Powell Duffryn†	476½	+9	6.6	12.4
169.90	Staveley†	148	+2	7.7	19.1
3,213.10	Swire Pacific	331	−16½	4.2	
486.90	TT Group	293	−3½	3.4	12.0
3,392.50	Tomkins	287½	−18½	4.2	13.2
41.00	Unitoret	207½	+5	7.8	
105.40	Wardle Storeys†	410		6.2	12.5
500.30	Wassall	321½	−7	2.7	14.4
57.40	Whitecroft†	129½		4.5	21.0

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
6,031.50	Siebe	1192	−50	1.3	21.2
65.80	Sir Hundred†	117½		5.3	8.3
2,584.20	Smiths Ind†	845	−25	2.6	19.9
438.10	Spirax-Sarco	557½	+5½	3.2	14.3
76.60	Sterling Ind	25½	+5½	5.0	9.1
2,359.70	TI	492	−8	3.5	15.7
16.30	Tinsley (E)	100	−2½	7.9	9.0
161.80	Transtec†	91½	−5½	3.3	12.5
175.30	Triplex Lloyd†	262½	+30½	3.4	17.7
228.10	Ultra Elect	352½	...	2.3	20.8
23.50	Ulo Inds	52½	+1½	6.0	13.5
808.30	Vickers	238	−4	3.8	14.9
8.27	Villiers Grp	7	−¼		
309.30	Vitec†	636½	−6½	2.5	12.1
282.80	Vosper Thornyrt	806½	−21	4.1	12.4
154.90	Wagon Ind	295	+2½	5.2	12.8
566.20	Weir	278½	+7	3.7	13.5
38.40	Wellington Hdg	162½	−6	6.2	9.4
58.10	Wellman	39¼	+2½	5.8	12.6
33.50	Wescol	60½	−2	2.5	17.3
190.20	Whatman	770	−17½	2.3	32.5
5.32	Widney	44	+7½	10.5	..

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
174.50	Adwest	150		5.6	12.2
13.60	Airflow Stream†	160		6.2	11.3
174.50	Avon Rubber	637	+4½	3.8	
56.70	Barlcom	333½	−6½	2.7	16.7
302.40	Brikat†	132	+4½	3.2	17.2
175.60	Dennis	313½		3.7	14.5
138.80	First Tecbt	291	−15½	1.5	32.9
4,393.10	GKN	1241	−111	2.5	
27,761.60	General Mtr	3868¾	+71¼	3.1	
218.30	Hanlys	405½	−2	4.8	9.7
21,247.30	Honda Motor	2180½	−27½	0.4	
644.90	Lairdt	453½	−8½	3.2	
2,792.00	LucasVarity†	199	+10½	2.5	12.7
452.20	Mayflower	179	+2½	1.7	25.4
39.20	Sytione	120	+1½	6.9	9.8
1,361.20	T & N†	292	+2	4.6	
5.84	Toad	20			

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,905.00	AB Food	545	−10½	2.3	17.3
125.30	Acatos & Hutch	386		4.6	24.0
271.80	Albert Fisher†	37¼	+1½	11.2	9.8
26.30	Banks (S C)	282½		5.1	10.1
80.50	Barr (AG)	415	+18½	3.2	14.9
16.50	Benson Crsp	32½	−1½	4.3	8.1
807.70	Booker†	329	+13	9.1	
12.70	CPL Aromas†	97	+½	6.2	27.9
6,267.10	Cadbury-Schw	620½	−4½	3.3	16.8
30.60	Carrs Milling	258	−3½	5.8	
48.00	Cavaghan	71½	+2	6.5	13.3
35.10	Claremont†	245½	−2½	5.3	11.7
277.60	Dairy Crest Group†	251	−2	5.0	10.6
798.60	Dalgety	274½	−12½	6.1	
27.00	Daniels S	37½	+1	1.0	20.7
603.40	Devro	379		2.9	17.0
111.60	Finlay (James)†	111½	−1½	4.8	20.5
293.00	Geest†	402½	+2½	2.7	18.8
20.40	Global	14	+½	6.0	7.2
568.10	Greencore	382½	+31½	2.9	
393.30	Hazlewood Fds	169	+8	5.3	12.0
1,115.20	Hillsdown†	153½	−4	8.1	9.6
21.80	JLI Group†	56	+1½	11.0	11.7
77.80	Linton Park	391	+6½	5.1	8.4
124.50	Matthews (B)	100	−3½	5.2	9.6
82.30	Nichols (V)	216½	−1	4.2	12.2

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
876.80	Electra Inv	506½	+3	2.2	47.4
262.30	Eng & Scot	180¼	+1	2.3	41.7
92.60	European Asset	371½	−½	1.3	..
85.20	Fidelity Asian Val	63½	−5½		
155.90	Fidelity Euro Val	273	−1½	0.2	..
27.40	Fidelity Jap Val	26	−¼		
49.70	Fidelity Spec Valt	135	−1½	1.2	67.4
35.90	Finsbury 'A'	224½	−½	2.2	61.2
78.40	Finsbury Gwtht	170½	+3	2.6	47.8
143.30	Fore Am Chile	156¼	−4½	1.5	
0.19	Fore Am Wts	11	−½		
380.70	Fleming Amer	547	−14	0.8	...
93.70	Fleming Asian	56½	−2¾		
2.66	Fleming Asian Wts	8¼	−1½		
36.30	Fleming Chinese	60	−2¾		
2.70	Fleming Ch Wts	22½	−¼		
227.20	Fleming Claver	387	−3½	2.1	50.6
232.20	Fleming Cont	447½	+2	1.1	
108.40	Fleming Em Mkts	112	−1½	0.4	
107.20	Fleming Emp	268	−½	2.5	59.9
48.90	Fleming Fledg	388	−3	0.3	
90.90	Fleming Inc Cap	98½	+1½	7.2	18.7
85.30	Fleming Ing Inct	106	−½	11.2	11.0
98.40	Fleming Ing Cap	244½	+3		
38.40	Fleming Indian	39½	−3½		
1.22	Fleming In Wts	7¼	−2½		
280.00	Fleming Japan	143	−4½		
551.30	Fleming Merc	381½	+1	2.9	34.7
30.60	Fleming Nat Res	74½		0.9	
476.80	Fleming Oseas	359	−2½	1.6	78.4
39.40	Fleming Smlr Co	147½	−5	3.8	
1,794.60	Foreign & Col	170½	−½	1.7	58.7
44.40	F&C Inc Gwtht	102½	−1	4.4	28.5
187.10	F&C Eng Mkts	99½	+1½		
167.80	F&C Enterprise	178½	+1½	1.7	59.7
218.70	F&C Eurotst†	351	+6½	0.5	
60.90	F&C German	155	−1	0.5	
257.40	F&C Pacific	111¼	−6½	2.1	53.3
85.50	F&C PEP†	145	+2	3.9	
184.00	F&C Smllr	175½	+1½	1.9	51.4
75.60	F&C US Smlr	150¼	−2½		
23.90	Framlin Inc	61	+½	10.7	11.4
25.70	Framlin Cap	103½			
4.53	Frank Dual Co	129½	+1		
5.41	Fulcrum Cap	33½	+1½		
2.25	Fulcrum Inc	20		59.4	2.1
16.20	Fulcrum Zero	186	+½		
135.20	Gartmore BrlO	270½	+½	4.2	
90.50	Gartmore Euro	334½	+1½	0.8	
36.40	Gartmore Shrd†	107	+½	11.6	11.1
47.90	G'more Smlr Cost	232½	+2	2.3	49.1
31.90	Geared Inc Ord	51½		10.8	6.6
32.30	Geared Inc Inc	52	+2	10.7	6.7
44.10	Genl Cons Cap	343½			
38.40	Genl Inc	106	+1	15.4	9.5
39.80	Gov Asn Sm Cos	106	−7	0.6	
31.10	Gov Eng Mts	81½	−3½	0.6	..
45.60	Govett Am Smlr	183	−10		
39.40	Govett High Inc	82½	−3	8.5	14.2
357.60	Govett Oseas†	99½	−5	0.8	
362.60	Govett Strategic†	369½	−4	2.6	34.9
1.01	Gresham House	23½	−1	1.3	1.4
65.80	GT Inc Growth	122	+1	3.4	41.9
99.20	GT Japan	158	−5	0.6	..
22.60	Gart Fl Ex Inct	114½	+½	9.0	..
23.50	Henderson Am Cp	62½			
8.62	Henderson Am In	115	+1	8.6	14.8
2.33	Henderson Am Wt	31	+½		
251.10	Hend Elec Gen	277¼	+¼	1.7	64.6
62.00	Hend Far East†	110½	+4	7.7	15.8
55.30	Hend Gnlnar	457	+3½	2.0	65.1
81.00	Hend High Inc	154	+1	5.4	33.5
35.30	Hend Jap Smlr	35½	−1½		
338.30	Hend Smlr	223½	−½	2.2	53.8
87.70	Hend Strata	50½	−2½	0.1	
121.20	Hend TR Pac	61	−1½	0.5	68.0
46.80	Hend Tech	93½	−4½		
114.40	Herald	138	−1½	0.7	..
24.10	High Income T	106	+2	8.1	13.1
120.40	H Govett Smlr	142½	+1½	2.6	50.5

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
57.60	JF Fledg Jap	91½	−3½		
13.10	J Fry Euro U	123	−2½	5.5	26.8
47.40	J Fry Utilt	68		7.6	16.0
	J Fry Util Inc	81½	+2		
43.40	Jupiter Ex Inc	116¾	−½	8.4	14.8
0.90	Jupiter Ex IncWt	15	+2½		
12.60	Jupiter Grd Capt	90		11.2	11.1
15.10	Jupiter Grd Pfd	43	+¼		
34.30	Jupiter Intl Grn	136½	−½	3.6	
383.80	Klnwt Chst	362¾	+3¾	2.0	54.1
25.20	Klnwt E Mkt	87½	−2½		
50.90	Klnwt End	169¾	−½		

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
33.60	Klnwt H Inct	112	+6½	12.1	11.4
267.90	Klnwt O'seas	334	−6½	2.2	64.4
23.00	Klnwt Smlr	174	−2½	2.6	46.5
62.40	Korea—Euro	133¼	+29	0.9	61.1
108.40	Latin American	120½	−3¼		
248.50	Law Debenture	1071	−½	3.2	32.5
37.10	Life Oil Opp	117			
31.30	Lloyds Sm Cap	127½	−½		
4.66	Lloyds Sm Dw	19	+½	27.7	4.7
35.80	Lloyds Sm Pfg	146	−½	3.6	
56.90	Lon St Lawrence	173½	+1	4.6	35.3
81.20	Lowland†	344	−2	4.2	39.5
79.10	M&G 3rd Dual Cp	791	+6		
7.00	M&G 3rd Dual In	70			2.3
75.50	M&G Inc Geared†	75	−2½	9.6	13.4
126.70	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	51	−1¼		
55.50	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc†	22½	−½		3.6
217.20	M&G Inc Package†	149	+2	4.8	35.7

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
153.20	Majedie	252	+5	3.0	43.9
350.40	Merchants	352½	+½	5.0	25.1
656.50	Mercury Euro Prt	129	−2	2.2	57.1
58.40	Mercury Eur Wt	50½	−½		
254.60	Mercury World	99½	−1½	2.4	50.1
0.43	Mercury Wld Wts	0½	−¼		
537.00	Monks Inv Tst	692	−10	1.3	55.8
65.90	Morg Gren Inct	173	−4½	4.9	24.9
3.71	Morg Wts	76½	−1½		
49.06	Morg Latn Amer	76¼	−5¼	0.5	
3.47	Morg Wts	27	−1¼		
23.10	Murray Emt	116	−1½	3.4	39.0
0.67	Murray Ent Wts	14	−½		
32.80	Murray Emg Ecs	60½	−2	1.2	
1.24	Murray Em Ec Wt	9½	−½		
375.80	Murray Income	435½	+1½	4.1	31.2
527.70	Murray Intl	439	−5½	3.9	30.4
13.10	Murray S/C DP	235½			
14.80	Murray S/C Cap	264	+4		
4.92	Murray S/C Inct	61½		24.4	4.9

LEISURE & HOTELS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
9.60	ABI Leis	29	+3	7.0	..
1,712.40	Airtours	1200	−17½	2.1	18.5
35.70	Ald Leist	30	−3	4.2	9.8
87.80	Arcadian	59½		2.6	24.7
37.80	Arena Leis	20	−½		
10.40	BS Group	157½	+10	5.2	
22.00	Baldwin	115		4.3	16.1
37.40	Bluebird Toys	90	+1½	12.5	6.7
156.80	Boosey Hwks	800		1.5	30.0
30.20	Burndene	29		8.6	7.5
154.10	Capital Corpn	151½	+3	6.7	17.1
32.00	Character Grp	143½	+5½	4.0	
26.60	Chrysalis	63½	+12½	4.9	12.8
70.70	Clubhaus	81½			22.2
85.60	Eurocamp	239	−2	6.6	
577.60	Euro Disney	75½	−1½		
43.80	Euro Leisure†	127½	+3	4.0	5.4
211.90	First Choice	89	+1	3.2	
442.30	First Leisure	369		4.0	14.7

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
216.90	Mandarin Orntl	30½	−9	12.4	5.8
578.90	Millennium & Cop	399½	+9½	2.1	16.6
16.20	Millwall Hldgs	1½			
141.10	Newcastle Utdt	98½	+3	2.0	14.4
216.30	Northern	390½	+15½	1.9	30.4
6.50	Prism Leisure	76½		11.7	3.8
27.40	Queensborough†	24		2.1	10.3
48.30	Queens Moat	12½			3.5
2,613.90	Rank Grp	345¾	−4¼	6.2	21.4
37.70	Ryan Hotels IE	52½	+1	4.1	11.0
341.80	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1195		1.8	
25.20	Sheffield United	50½	−1	..	..

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
51.40	Sinclair (Wm)	227½	+4	4.8	12.0
20.90	Southampton	77	−½	1.6	
741.40	Stakis	97	−1½	3.3	14.6
280.10	Stanley Leisure	253½	−2½	2.0	20.7
4.71	Tandem	5			60.3
1,300.10	Tarpong	345		0.9	35.2
969.30	Thistle Hotels	157	−1	2.9	14.6
78.00	Tottenham Hot	77½	−1	1.6	10.6
168.40	Vardon	128	−½	2.2	15.2
147.90	Wembley	267½	−4	1.4	62.6
9.83	Zetters Gp	138½	+9	9.9	8.5

MEDIA

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
249.30	Abbott Mead	331½		2.2	25.9
69.80	Bristol	422	−3	4.8	14.2
32.10	Butt Aircroft	134½	+4	1.7	30.4
7,361.60	BSkyB	438	−42	1.8	26.4
100.20	CIA Gp	164½		1.8	31.5
368.50	Capital Radio†	500		3.4	15.5
2,595.10	Carlton Comms	444	−28	3.6	12.6
177.70	Chrysalis	571½		0.6	
8.76	City of Lon†	84½	+1½	8.5	10.9
468.20	Cordiant	118	−7½	1.1	18.1
137.00	Creative Pub	145	+7½	6.0	14.7
98.40	Daily Mail	1968¾	+93¾	1.5	22.8
1,973.10	Daily Mail A	1875	+87½	1.5	21.7
248.10	Dialog	160½	−9		
145.30	Dorling Kind	205½	+5½	2.7	34.8
1,843.50	EMAP†	882½	−6	1.9	20.7
3,651.00	EMI	464½	−8½	3.6	63.7
6,460.80	Elsevier	983	−37	2.6	22.9
35.30	Euromoney Pbt	1610	+15½	4.0	17.7
19.00	Fitch	49½	+1½	1.6	12.3
860.90	Flextech	549	−16½		

MINING

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
736.00	Ang Am Coal	2696¼	−271¼	6.4	6.3
5,462.00	Ang Am	2337½	−88¾	3.7	..
505.00	Ang Am Gold	2090¾	−87½	7.8	..
1,149.00	Anglo Am Plat	900	−28¼	2.1	..
15.40	Angle Pac Res	18			
97.60	Arcon Intl	34	+3½		
517.60	Ashanti†	466	+48	3.9	12.2
142.60	Ashton	51	−5½	11.1	
38.30	Avocet	110	+2½		
152.40	Beralds	182	−11½	10.7	8.5
3,148.30	Billiton	147½	−7½	4.1	15.2
3.25	Bisichi	31	−½	3.3	34.8
75.60	Bougainville	18½	−½		
237.30	Central Pacific	236½	−29		
1.63	Cons Murchison	24½	−½		
4,427.40	De Beers	1165¾	−109¾	5.1	11.6
796.40	Driefontein	390½	−5	3.4	..
8.35	Durban	90½	−7½		
27.40	E Rand Gold	53	+½		3.1
17.40	E Rand Prop	11½			
141.50	Elandsrand	121	−5½	14.8	..
868.70	Eng China Clt	262½	+17	5.5	21.8
37.60	Essador	98½	+½	16.4	2.4

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,570.40	Jardine Strat	151	−19½	5.8	7.5
16.80	Johnson Fry	105½	+½	4.7	19.8
33.70	Leopold J	635		4.0	27.6
1,433.20	Liberty Intl	498½	−5	4.2	28.3
390.50	Lon Forfaiting	373	−18½	4.1	12.2
128.20	London Pacific	152½	−1½	9.6	5.5
132.50	Lon Scot Bk	106		3.6	18.5
627.40	Man ED & F†	239	+7	5.8	9.6
1,020.90	M & G†	1375	+39	3.6	22.2
3,061.60	MAM†	1673	−2	3.5	26.5
167.00	Paragon	190	−14	1.8	
727.60	Perpetual†	2580	+97	3.0	17.4
2,071.40	Provident	775½	+34½	2.9	24.7
111.60	Rathbone Bs	387½		4.0	13.7
27.30	Rea Brothers	55½	+½	2.2	19.5
143.30	Rutland Tst	47½	−2½	3.8	11.0
15.80	SEC Group	88		7.5	
38.10	S & U	323		7.2	8.5
2,867.10	Schroders	1859	−41	1.4	19.2
770.40	Schroders N/V	1712	−33	1.5	17.7

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
90.80	Secure Tst	805	−10	4.3	13.2
203.50	Singer & Fried	145	+1½	4.2	11.4
7.78	Towry Law	50½	+3	..	..
3.76	Trio Hldgs	4½	+½	..	..
21.40	Union	80½			
128.50	Versailles Grp	47¾	+1½	1.1	29.7
36.00	Wintrust	400	+40	4.5	16.0

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
658.80	Ethical Biotech	100	−7½	..	...
115.90	Cantab Pharms	702½	−10	..	...
216.90	Celltech	283½	+18½		..
259.70	Chiroscience	242½	−11	..	..
269.80	Cortecs	191	+7½	..	...
59,508.10	Glaxo Well	1414	+9	2.9	28.1
195.80	ML Laboratories	135	−2½	...	25.0
874.60	Medeva	180½	−12½	3.1	35.4
98.00	Peptide Thera	273	−1	..	...
114.90	Powderject	194½	+3	..	..
26.90	Proteus Intl	48½	+9½	..	
17.50	Ransom (Wm)	73	−1	4.3	15.1
288.10	Scotia	367½	−55	..	...
337.20	Shire Pharms	271½	+1½	..	...
202.00	SkyePharma	55½	+6½		...
33,862.60	SmithKline†	612	−22	1.7	30.5
48.70	Therap Anti Inc	327½		..	..
120.60	Vanguard	411½	−13½	..	..
40.70	Xenova	176	+1	..	
18,638.40	Zeneca	1964	−1	2.3	26.2

PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
18.30	AG Holdings†	87		9.0	11.3
164.30	API	582½	−7½	2.6	..
19.10	App Holo	72	+4½		
1,356.00	Arjo Wiggins	164½	−17½	5.3	11.1
46.20	Bath Press	21½	...	3.2	8.9
184.30	Betterware	432½	+2	4.5	12.5
115.60	Blagden	159	+3	2.1	10.4
1,062.70	Bowater Inc	2590¾	−18¾		
183.90	Bunzl Intl	256½	+3	1.5	17.7
175.80	Br Polythene	434	−15	5.3	10.3
2.82	Br Thornton	17½	..		
192.50	Britton Grp	138½		3.1	15.6
1,039.40	Bunzl†	230	+1½	3.2	14.1
45.80	Capital Inds	135		5.4	11.1
22.00	Cropper (James)†	265	+8½	3.3	9.5
939.40	De La Rue	417½		7.3	10.7
60.30	Dolphin Pack	257½		3.6	14.9
15.30	Fairway Group	38	+½	13.2	11.7
54.70	Ferguson Intl	135		12.3	10.2
42.80	Filofax	149½	−½	3.3	10.3
38.50	Inveresk	75	−1½	8.7	7.7
98.50	Jarvis Porter†	210		4.5	12.3
320.20	Low & Bonar	322½	+8½	5.8	9.7
103.50	MY Holdings	76½		4.5	10.1
232.70	Macfarlane	183½	−½	2.8	16.5
134.00	Photobition	917½	+77½	1.0	30.3
76.70	Plysu	159½		6.1	12.7
39.90	Porter Chadburn†	28		9.6	8.9
1,402.80	REXAM	278	−14½	6.2	18.7
540.50	St Ives Gp	532½	−3	2.7	16.3
505.80	Sappi	317½	−14½	2.7	..
2.60	Security & General	3½			
59.40	Skiller	86½	−5½	3.3	23.4
654.00	Smith David	205	−3	5.0	12.6
1,912.30	Smurfit (Jef)	173½	−3	2.6	15.0
3.38	Sonict	169	+½	2.3	18.5
53.30	Tinsley Robor	143	−2	2.6	15.8
20.30	Wace	25½	−1½	14.7	
280.10	Waddington†	265	+6½	5.0	11.7
188.90	Watmough	275	−3½	4.8	14.1
87.70	Wyndeham†	231½		2.9	14.1

PROPERTY

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
63.00	Allied Lon†	90		5.6	18.9
132.40	Asda	168	−1	2.1	26.5
11.10	Asbrooay Grp	31½			
84.90	Ashtenne Hldgs	134½		4.6	14.5
290.00	Benchmark	240½	+½	1.6	37.5

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
15.80	Partners	85	−76½	0.7	15.8
19.70	Partridge Fine	89	+7	4.8	16.1
11.70	QS Hldgs	29½		..	..
116.60	Rosebys	315	+1	3.5	16.6
87.80	Savo Groupt	93½	−6	9.5	7.0
717.80	Sears	47	−1½	8.9	35.7
506.60	Signet Group	30¼	+¼		8.6
1,091.20	Smith WH	384½	−11	5.1	..
808.00	Sothebys	1090	+89	2.2	...
1,810.50	Storehouse†	239½	−5	4.4	12.1
51.80	Stylo	87	+½	6.7	..
137.60	T & S Stores	191	+1	5.2	10.6
564.40	Thorn	152		11.2	8.2
67.20	Tie Rack†	129½		3.2	13.1
51.80	UNO	278		2.0	20.6
5.16	Upton & South	3	−½		15.1
3,258.20	Vendome†	467	−½	2.8	17.4
181.10	Witches	239½	+3½		4.7
107.40	Wyevale	275½	+2	3.0	10.8

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
432.00	AEA Tech	500	+20	2.2	23.6
405.80	Aggreko	153	−11	2.9	21.4
135.50	Alpha Airpts	80½	−1½	8.3	7.7
23.10	Alphameric	53	−3		25.8
118.80	Amlin Grp	50	+9		..
330.70	Atkins WS	359½	+12	2.8	21.0
33.20	BNB Res	151½	−4	6.3	8.0
135.50	BPP	500	+10	3.5	19.7
821.00	BTG	876½	−16½	0.2	..
10.40	Brooks Service	81½		5.5	12.0
295.10	Business Post	567½	−2½	2.5	24.2
924.60	CMG	1442½	+32½	0.5	46.8
515.50	CRT Gp	360	+17	1.5	49.9
33.90	Caird Gp	827½	+27½	1.5	8.1
627.20	Capita Group	327½	+1½	0.7	60.5
3.50	Chemex	8½	+1	2.2	16.1
349.20	Corp Services	218½	+3	3.3	17.6
15.30	Coutts Cnsltg	31	+4½	8.2	
63.90	DCS Gp	290½	+32	0.8	22.9
1,234.80	Danka Bs Syst	543	−7	8.7	20.0
431.20	Davis Service	312	+1½	4.3	18.0
200.80	Delphi	692½	+35	1.2	19.1
108.00	Diagonal	589	+27½	0.2	58.3
35.90	Dudley Jenkins	270	+14½	2.2	22.1
11.40	EW Fact	62½		4.0	10.8
14.50	El Data Prc	55½	−7	5.1	
268.10	FI GroupA	832½	−12½	0.8	50.2
88.20	Harvey Nash	316½	+5	1.6	
3,226.70	Hays	767	−14	1.5	30.8
215.10	Hogg Robinson	249½	+19	5.2	11.4
384.80	JBA Hldgs†	1051½	+30½	0.6	52.1
112.50	Johnson Clean	224½	+10½	6.6	8.9
29.80	Kalamazoo	68½	+1	7.6	10.1
73.00	Kewill Syst	586	+8½	2.2	13.6
5.80	Lasr-Scan	18	+½		
80.20	Lavendon	348½	+8½	1.2	27.7
760.40	Logica	1052½	+20	1.4	33.8
82.80	Lorien	485	−1	1.9	71.8
108.20	Lyer Hldgst	103	+7½	2.4	
96.50	MDIS	46	+½		
83.60	MMT Compt	702½	+13½	2.0	23.6
61.70	MR Group	110½	−2	4.3	15.1
67.00	Macro 4	340		9.3	10.7
47.50	Mentmore Abbey	55½	+10½	1.5	16.5
339.10	Micro Focus	2187½	+57½	..	43.7
29.90	Microgen	75½		12.9	5.4
1,949.60	Misys	1740	−25	0.9	32.3
158.80	MITIE Gp	243½	+8	1.0	30.8
28.00	Move Group	51½		3.9	11.7
34.60	Odus	41	−½	4.1	18.9
99.30	PSD	410½	+1½	1.7	18.9
7.68	Pacer Infotect	98½	−3½	3.8	15.6
314.30	Parity	837½	−9½	0.9	35.5
18.40	Pegasus	262½	+3½	3.6	11.1
17.10	Penna	155	+5	1.8	7.9
79.60	Photo-Me†	111	−2	5.6	13.5
23.80	Proudfoot	30	+2	...	...
18.50	RCO	172½		11.6	20.1
41.80	RPS Group	201		2.8	17.8
9.86	Radius	34½	+3	6.0	9.8
22.90	Real Time	327½	−8½	3.3	11.3
75.40	Reliance	81½	−3½	2.8	17.7
57.20	Reed Executive	139½		2.9	6.9
42.40	Reliance Sec	185	+22½	4.7	16.2
7,154.60	Rentokil In	250½	−9¼	1.3	27.5
69.00	Ricardo Group	150		5.2	24.6
115.70	Robert Walters	470½	+20	0.7	30.3
46.20	Rolfe & Nolan	347½	+32½	2.0	34.8
61.80	Royalblue	247½	+9	0.8	46.1
876.70	Sage Gp	811	+11	0.4	34.5

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

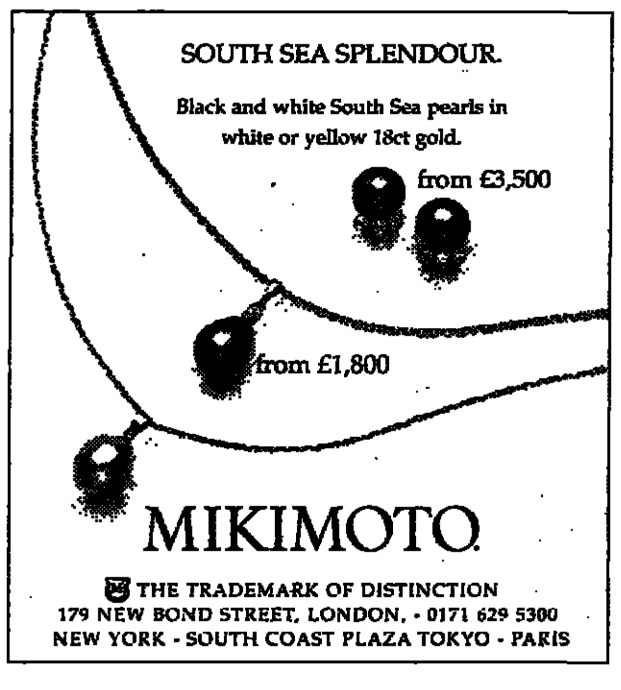
Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2,260.30	Anglian†	835		5.4	11.4
149.80	East Surrey†	285	+4	4.9	11.5
1,384.10	Hyder	958¼	−8	6.0	7.9
245.80	Hyder Cnv Pf	119½	+2¼	8.6	...
115.40	Mid Kent Hdgs	675	+6	5.9	9.9
3,444.20	Severn Trent	1016	+28	4.7	11.1
193.40	South Staffs†	1277½		3.6	13.5
1,218.60	South West†	929	−6	5.1	11.7
3,512.00	Thames	950	−10	4.8	10.5
4,126.50	Utd Utilities†	767	+7¼	6.3	12.4
1,068.90	Wessex	503½	−1	4.7	9.8
1,847.60	Yorkshire†	487½	−3½	5.0	9.5

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
10.90	Abacus Recruit	167½	+10	1.1	19.4
10.20	Cala Invst	207½	−½	1.8	15.8
124.70	Dawson Hldgs	220	..	2.7	21.2
140.30	Freepages	28½	+1	...	...
40.60	Megalomedia	66		0.4	31.3
18.50	Memory Corp	26½	−4½	..	
700.20	Pagan Rail†	998	+10	1.6	...
262.70	Ramco Egy	870	+7¼	0.1	..
179.90	Southern News	736½	..	3.4	19.6
16.70	Southern Vectis	84½	+4	3.1	17.8
89.20	Trocadero†	17½	−2	..	..

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; ..No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
800	Treas 9¼% 1998	101⅝	−⅛	3.99	6.66
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	100⅞	−⅛	9.73	7.16
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100⅛	+⅛	7.25	7.21
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	102⅞	−⅛	13.61	7.23
935	Treas 15½% 1998	106⅛	−⅛	14.59	7.24
3,905	Exch 12% 1998	104⅛		11.51	7.22
1,930	Treas 9½% 1999	102⅞	+⅛	9.28	7.11
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	107⅝	+⅛	11.53	7.36
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	104⅞	+⅛	10.03	6.96
6,958	Treas 6% 1999	98⅞	+⅛	6.08	6.85
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	105⅞	−⅛	9.68	6.92
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	104⅝	+⅛	8.63	6.85
9,800	Treas 8% 2000	103⅛	+⅛	7.74	6.75
109	Treas 8½% 2000	103⅛	+⅛	8.24	6.84
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	114⅝	+⅛	11.29	6.89
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	109	+⅛	9.17	6.80
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	101⅛	+⅛	6.92	6.65

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
9,000	Treas 7% 2002	101⅞	+⅛	6.88	6.56
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	112½	+⅛	8.68	6.63
8,600	Treas 8% 2003	106⅝	−1	7.49	6.50
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	115⅛	−1⅛	8.61	6.52
1,620	Treas 11½% 2001-04	112⅝	+⅛	10.13	6.81
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	90⅛	+1½	3.92	5.27
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	116⅛	+1⅛	8.15	6.46
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	101⅞	−1⅛	6.63	6.41
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	113⅛	−1⅛	7.52	6.37
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	117⅛	+1½	8.08	6.37
2,200	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128⅛	+1⅛	9.70	6.55
11,700	Treas 7½% 2006	107⅛	+1½	6.95	6.33
4,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	109⅛	+1⅛	7.10	6.37
2,050	Treas 8% 2002-06	105⅛	−⅛	7.59	6.65
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121⅛	−⅛	9.64	6.50
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	115⅛	+1½	7.38	6.15

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
9,000	Treas 7¼% 2007	107⅛	+1⅛	6.77	6.27
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	121½	+2⅛	7.41	6.23
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	114⅛	+2⅛	7.00	6.27

LONGS (over 15 years)

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	99⅛	+2⅛	6.29	6.30
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	124⅛	+2⅛	7.24	6.30
6,360	Treas 9% 2012	125⅛	+2⅛	7.18	6.31
7,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	93⅛	+2⅛	5.88	6.19
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	112⅞	+2⅛	6.86	6.37
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	116⅛	+2⅛	6.86	6.31
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	118⅛	+2⅛	6.74	6.25
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	127⅛	+3⅛	6.85	6.27
16,500	Tr 8% 2021	121⅛	+3⅛	6.56	6.21

UNDATED

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
1,909	War Ln 3½%	55⅝	+2⅛	6.29	
475	Treas 2½%	39⅛	+1⅛	6.40	
359	Consols 4%	60⅛	+1⅛	6.56	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	5%	3%
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	194⅛	+1⅛	1.95	3.27
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2003	192⅛	+1⅛	2.95	3.18
1,150	Treas IL 4¼% 2004	124⅛	+1⅛	2.30	3.12
2,500	Treas IL 2% 2006	206⅛	+2⅛	2.38	3.11
2,625	Treas IL 2½% 2009	189⅛	+2⅛	1.94	3.06
3,100	Treas IL 2½% 2011	197⅛	+3⅛	2.85	3.05
3,750	Treas IL 2½% 2013	164	+2⅛	2.95	3.03
3,825	Treas IL 2½% 2016	177⅛	+3⅛	2.86	3.03
3,700	Treas IL 2½% 2020	172⅛	+3⅛	2.97	3.04
3,650	Treas IL 2½% 2024	146⅛	+3⅛	2.97	3.03
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	142⅛	+3⅛	2.96	3.02

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Avocet Mining, Channel Holdings, First Ireland, Hadleigh, MFI Furniture Group, Optometrics, Phonelink, Plysu.
Finals: Fountain Forestry, ML Laboratories.
Economic statistics: US November industrial production, US Treasury auction of short-term t-bills, EU employment ministers' meeting, EU agriculture ministers' meeting.

TOMORROW

Interims: Batleys, Computerland UK, Euclidian, Kenwood Appliances, Toad, Utilitec, Zergo.
Finals: Caspian Group, First Choice Holidays, Greenalls, Hill Samuel UK Emerging, Securicor, Universal Salvage.
Economic statistics: UK November public sector borrowing requirement, US November consumer prices index, US November housing starts, federal open market committee meeting, US Treasury announces size of short-term t-bills, Redbook weekly survey of US retail sales.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Carpetright, Druck Holdings.
Finals: Chemring Group, Eurotherm, Legal & General Recovery.
Economic statistics: UK October average earnings, unit wage costs, UK November retail sales, UK November unemployment. Bundesbank awards repos, European Commission weekly meeting, US Treasury announces size of two-year and five-year notes, OECD semi-annual economic outlook.

THURSDAY

Interims: Asda, Baring Emerging Europe, Belhaven Brewery, Creative Publishing, Jones Stroud (Holdings), Ptarmigan International Capital.
Finals: Fine Art Development, London Merchant Securities, Warner Estate Holdings.
Economic statistics: UK November provisional M4 money supply, M4 lending, UK November final M0 money supply, UK British Bankers Assciation end-November bank lending, UK Building Societies Association November building society lending, UK November car production, UK NTC November consumer confidence survey, Bundesbank central council meeting, US October trade deficit, US weekly jobless claims report, Federal Reserve releases summary of November 12 meeting.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled.
Finals: Kelsey Industries.
Economic statistics: no UK data scheduled for release.

COMPANIES MICHAEL CLARK

Staking claim in Canada helps First Choice to improve prospects

FIRST CHOICE: The City will be looking for a better performance from Britain's third-largest tour operator when it unveils full-year figures tomorrow. Last year the group cut the payout to shareholders to 2.8p despite a recovery in profits from £1.3 million to £10 million.

The new management seems to have got to grips with the group's problems in a short space of time, with brokers looking for a further recovery in pre-tax profits to between £19 million and £21 million.

To help to offset the seasonality of the peak summer season during June, July and August, First Choice, whose chairman is Ian Clubb, has expanded into Canada, bringing it into direct competition with Airtours.

It is hoped that the management will also have begun to improve margins while, at the same time, reducing costs. Brokers will be anxious to establish how strong summer bookings are. With any luck, the payout could be as high as 5p in an attempt to repair some of last year's damage.

ASDA: Will Asda reopen bid talks with rival Safeway at some stage? The market seems to think it will. Asda's interim results on Thursday should produce further sales growth achieved on the back of increased selling space. Even so, the group remains half the size of rivals Sainsbury and Tesco, who command 15 per cent and 13 per cent of the grocery market respectively compared with Asda's 8 per cent. Eventually, it must find a way of making up the leeway. A bid for Safeway may be the most logical way forward.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at between £180 million and £185 million compared with £160 million for the corresponding period. Earnings are likely to be up from 3.9p to 4.3p.

Like-for-like sales should have shown further improvement and, despite zero inflation during the first six months, projected volume growth of 7 per cent should exceed the 6 per cent reported by Tesco.

Asda has committed itself to opening a further 28 hypermarkets by 1999, which is likely to push capital expenditure up by an extra £500 million.

The payout will grow by around 7 per cent to 0.87p.

Ian Clubb is expected to post better full-year profits when First Choice reports tomorrow

MFI FURNITURE: There were encouraging signs at the time of the annual meeting in September, with group sales in the first 21 weeks of the current year up 9 per cent. Brokers such as NatWest Markets are looking for a modest increase in interim results when the group reports today, with pre-tax profits coming in at £34 million compared with £32.7 million last time. Growth in earnings a share is likely to be just 3 per cent ahead at 4p.

Sales in this country are expected to be 10 per cent ahead. But currency factors and tough trading condition are likely to see sales in France drop 8 per cent.

The payout should grow 6 per cent to 1.8p.

CARPETRIGHT: Interim results are due on Wednesday and Nick Bubb at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, is forecasting an increase in profits at the pre-tax level from £14 million to £17.5 million.

The group's performance will have been boosted by its new store-opening programme which will have also offset a patchy peformance.

Nevertheless, the company will have still managed to increase its market share at the bottom end of the range where its Carpet Warehouse continues to grow.

A 4 per cent increase in like-for-like sales is envisaged.

GREENALLS GROUP: Full-year figures from the pub and hotel chain operator are exected to contain few surprises when it reports tomorrow. The profits warning announced earlier this year set out the problems faced by the group and prompted brokers to begin a series of profit downgradings.

NatWest Markets is now looking for a final figure of £158 million compared with £149 million last time, an increase of just 7 per cent.

The rise in earnings is likely to be even more modest with 39.9p pencilled in against 38.5p last time.

The managed pubs chain is likely to have endured a poor second half, starved of investment after the Boddington's acquisition. The tail of the estate has since been transferred to the tenanted chain.

By contrast, the performance of the hotel division will impress, reflecting the improved conditions within the industry generally. Room rates have been rising along with occupancy rates. Its performance will also have been boosted by the Boddington's Village Leisure operations, now regarded as the most profitable part of the acquisition.

The transfer of pubs will have been positive for the franchised and wholesaling division, which now makes up almost 30 per cent of group profits. The payout should grow by 8 per cent to 16.6p.

EUROTHERM: The strength of the pound and receding margins will leave a big dent in full-year results from Eurotherm due out on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits are expected to have tumbled from £37.7 million to £29.5 million with earnings a share also down by around 20 per cent at 21.6p.

Brokers say there will have been some improvement in second-half trading over the first six months during which time sterling weakened slightly to improve overseas pricing. The introduction of new products will also have given a boost to the final quarter of the year.

The final dividend should rise from 9p to 9.5p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus falls on the Far East

All eyes will again be fixed on the crisis in financial markets in the Far East. On Tuesday, the details of the Japanese banking package — which is expected to offer protection to depositors and capital injections to encourage takeovers of failed institutions — will be unveiled. Economists believe that with most of the well-flagged moves already priced into the market, the package will bring little instant relief. The Bank of Japan's *Tankan* report, on Monday, is expected to show the country's growth rate is virtually zero.

The events in the East will completely overshadow the US federal open market committee on Tuesday. Economists are not expecting a rise in rates and the Fed may express its own concern about Asia. Negative comment could prompt a spate of downgrades of earnings figures on Wall Street. Consumer price figures on Tuesday are expected to show US inflation remaining subdued, with monthly growth for November static at 0.2 per cent.

In Britain, the market will be looking for signs that the economy is cooling. The November retail sales figures, on Wednesday, are expected to be weak, in line with the British Retail Consortium figures last week showing growth slumping. MMS International, the economics forecasting consultancy, predicts a monthly fall of 0.5 per cent in sales, while the annual rate of growth will slip from 6.4 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

The unemployment statistics for November are published on the same day, with fears persisting that a rise in average earnings could still persuade the Bank of England to raise rates. MMS forecasts average earnings figures to rise from 4.25 per cent to 4.5 per cent — the maximum rate of increase at which the Bank feels comfortable. MMS predicts a drop of 15,000 in the jobless total compared with 10,000 the previous month.

The November public sector borrowing requirement, on Tuesday, is expected to confirm that the Government will meet its revised forecast figure of £9.5 billion. MMS predicts the PSBR will total £2.5 billion, down on the same month last year. Confirming the weaker picture, M4 — the measure of broad money supply — is predicted to show annual growth down from 10.9 per cent to 10.5 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Wembley, Bass, Allied Colloids, 600 Group, Walker Crisps; **Sell** Dixon Motors. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Copyright Promotions, Wates City of London, TJ Hughes: **Sell** Kingfisher, Reg Vardy. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** Winchester Entertainment. Card Clear: **Sell** McBride. *The Express on Sunday*: **Buy** Orbis, Calderburn. *The Observer*: **Buy** Blue Circle, British Aerospace, First Choice.

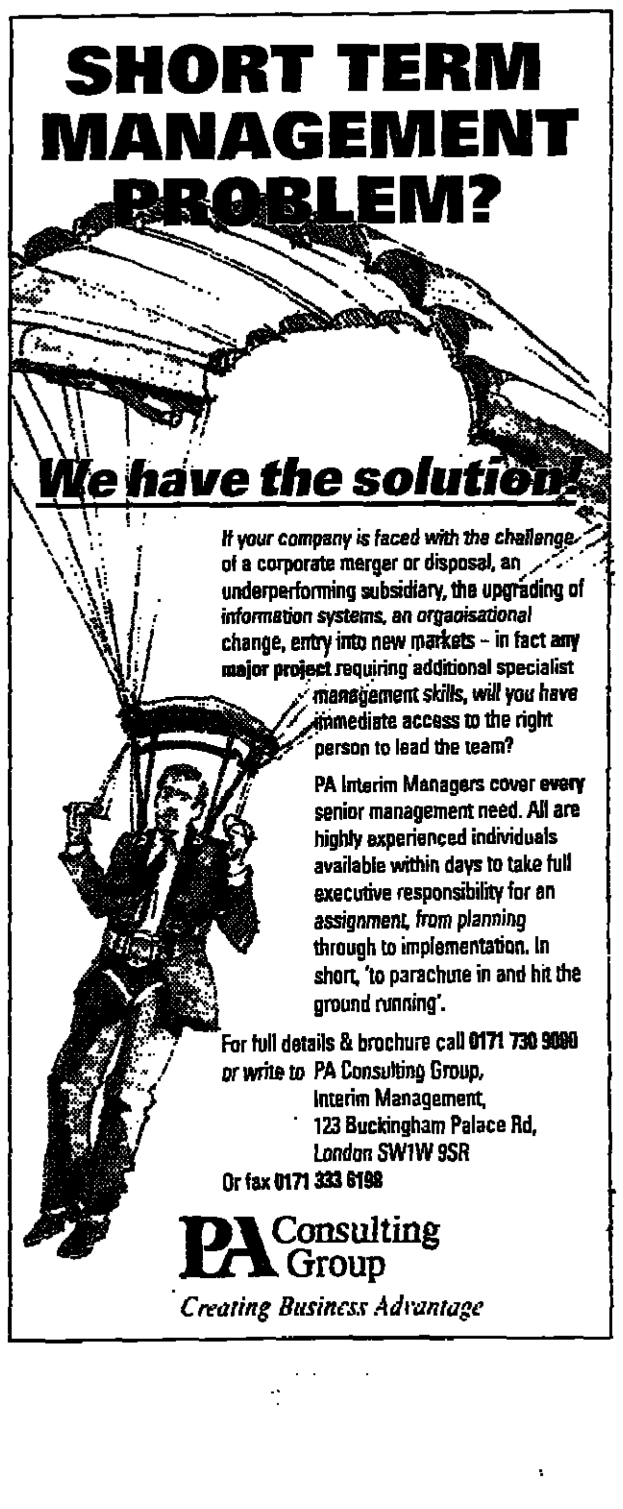
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1997 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	13.10 AFA Systems	109½	- 1		
153½	131½	18.90 AMCO Corp	132½		6.1	6.8
422½	170	46.80 AND Int Pub	197½	+ 12½		
167½	84½	10.90 Abacus Recruit	167½	+ 10	1.1	19.4
195	99½	32.30 Access Plus	192	+ 4	3.4	22.0
89¼	5¾	3.30 Active Imaging	8			
230	200	31.30 A de Gruchy	210		4.4	10.7
11¼	6½	6.95 African Gold	6¾	- ¾		27.3
117½	69½	35.30 Airtech	77½	+ 2		
44½	31¼	13.30 Albemarle & Bd	35	+ 1	1.8	13.3
52½	29	6.05 Alizyme	35	+ 1½		
111½	73½	2.43 Anglo-Welsh	78½		1.6	
610	455	58.00 Ann St Brewery	597½		4.5	10.8
1240	1015	7.02 Ann St Cv Pf	1185	+ 2	6.8	
129½	65½	67.90 Antonov	87½	+ 1		
148½	99½	19.40 Aortech	112½			
105	90	4.64 Asam Resources	90		5.8	
100½	90	9.78 Archer Dedicated	90		1.1	
262½	130	48.40 Ask Central	232½	- 12½	0.3	36.0
69½	62½	1.12 Athelney Trust	62½		2.0	54.1
32	9½	10.50 Atlantic Caspian	15			
103½	56½	45.70 Avalon Oil	57½	- 1		
144½	120½	38.60 BARM Adv Comms	124	- 1	2.5	
240	13½	5.37 BKG Res	13½	- 1½		
3¾	3¼	2.57 Bakery Services	3½			
59½	35	8.11 Barbican Health	42	- 1½		
12½	6½	27.60 Barrasford	10¼	- ¼		
3¼	1¾	3.30 Beechcroft	1¾			8.7
4½	2½	5.32 Beaufort	2¾	- ¼	3.1	27.7
45½	36½	6.12 Bickerton	40	- 2½		16.5
90	60	1.22 Billam	76		8.7	23.2
76½	47½	3.92 Bilston Bttsea	44	+ 2½	4.3	22.8
2¼	1	6.07 Birchin Intl	1½			
1¼	0¼	0.07 Birchin Wts	0¾			
64	33½	13.20 Birmingham City	36½			14.5
80½	70½	7.05 Blakes Cloth	70½	- 2	2.6	7.7
235	145	1.65 Bowness Leis	235		2.7	8.8
62½	37½	6.90 Brancote Hldgs	37½			
104	55	4.31 Br Bloodstock	104	+ 4	2.4	12.7
18½	15½	0.78 Buckland Inv	18½			
12	9	0.08 Buckland Inv Wts	10			
211	144½	24.96 CA Coutts Hldgs	211	+ 2	1.9	16.8
180	128½	1.90 C & B Publishing	165	- 5		
109½	109½	0.12 CCI Founder Shs	109½			
190½	140½	1.45 CCI Hldgs	165½	- 2	1.9	8.4
217	170	10.20 Cafe Inns	207½	- ½	1.8	15.8
70	55	7.38 Caledonian Tst	60			10.2
18¼	2	3.84 Cambridge Min Res	16¾	+ ½		
3¼	2	2.70 Canbury Inv	2			
1½	0½	0.29 Canbury Inv Wts	0¾			
51	29	47.70 Card Clear	39½	+ 1½	0.3	36.1
57½	52½	5.50 Carisbrooke Ship	54½		8.0	8.8
65	40	2.20 Cassidy Bros	40		9.4	45.7
57½	42½	2.22 Cavendish W	50½		4.2	23.2
15	10	3.51 Celebrated Group	10½		3.5	18.9
£550	£345	75.00 Celtic	£250			15.7
1450	[illegible]	41.60 Celtic Pf Shr	£225		1.6	
112½	36½	22.26 CI Comms(TV)	101½	- 6	3.9	11.6
65	49	1.25 Charlton Athletic	51½			16.1
9¾	6½	8.50 Charterhouse	8½		3.4	11.9
27½	12½	1.44 Chartwell Intl	12½			
170	[illegible]	163.50 Chelsea Village	117½	- 1		
265	[illegible]	6.27 Chemical Design	95	- 5		
109½	[illegible]	33.50 Citadel	101½			
110	[illegible]	1.94 Clan Homes	105			27.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	0.54 ClubPartners	2			
[illegible]	[illegible]	12.50 Coffee Rep	23	+ 1½		
[illegible]	[illegible]	15.50 Comeco	120½	- 2	2.2	10.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Com de Pl Fin	517½	- 30	2.3	
[illegible]	109½	[illegible] Computerland UK	124½	+ 2	1.5	18.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	8.97 Concurrent Tech	18½		1.4	35.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Conc Tech A Pf	100			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Conc Tech B Pf	100			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Conc Tech Rd Pf	150			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Conc Tech Cv Pf	225			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Crusader Tst	38½	+ ½	6.5	9.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Corporate Exec	4			66.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Creds Intl	15			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Cresco Intl	153½			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Crown Eye	242½		6.4	20.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Cream Products	1¾			4.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Dalkeith Inns	20			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Dawn Til Dusk	260	- 5	0.7	20.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Deacon Hldgs	220		2.7	21.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Deep Sea Leisure	196½	+ 5		27.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Dentmaster	2¾	- ¼	4.1	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Digital Anim	82½	- 7½		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Delyn Group	95	+ ½	2.6	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	32½	- ½		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Dobbies Garden	270	+ 10	2.1	15.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Dragons Health	150½		0.6	16.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Drings of Bath	3			19.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Eagle	34½			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Easynet	94½	+ 1		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Elec Retail Sys	340	- 7½		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	42½			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Elec Multimedia	12			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	45			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Eurasia Mining	105	- 5		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] European Mng Fin	19½	- ½		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] European Mng Fin Wts	2½			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Euro Sales Fn	160			17.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Fairplace Cons	3			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	165			14.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Facewood	52½		3.1	24.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Firenet	90½	- 2		
69½	32½	1.62 Fieldens	32½			
242½	197½	6.09 Finl Publs	217½	+ 20		40.1
14½	3	0.71 First Infor	3½			
208½	109½	54.30 Fitness First	197½	+ 1		71.1
230	110	3.38 Flomerics	130		2.9	63.7
292½	100	3.10 Floral St	100		1.9	6.6
32½	22½	4.72 FNR Hldgs	22½			
152½	102½	10.90 Formscan	102½		2.7	11.2
134½	89½	11.70 Fountain Forestry	130½		2.6	18.6
51¼	26½	140.30 Freepages	28½	+ 1		
181½	140½	10.80 Furlong Homes	180		2.9	9.5
164½	62	7.21 Future Int Telep	65			
296	129½	18.60 GB Railways	189			10.0
65	47½	6.27 GR Hldgs	47½			
55½	45½	15.40 Gall Thomson Env	49½		3.2	10.1
16¼	11½	35.80 Gander Hdgs	12¼			
124½	82½	92.70 Gartland W&B	106½	- 3½	1.8	5.0
35	29½	1.40 General Inds	35			
167½	54½	166.50 Geo Int Media	166½	+ 25		
33½	12	22.10 Gold Mns Sard	17	- 1¼		
26	7	5.62 Gold Mns Sard Wts	10½	- 1½		
128½	123½	21.60 Gooch & Housego	127½		1.4	19.9
127½	107½	67.80 Goshawk Insce	117½		1.3	
3½	2¾	2.75 Grosmont Hldgs	2¾			
1¾	0½	1.50 Grosmont Hldgs Wts	1¼			
15¼	11¼	1.77 Grosvenor Ltd	14½			
172	140	38.60 Gulton	171		3.5	12.9
8¾	5¾	2.39 Hansom	6¼			
175	140	13.10 Hardy Undwrtg	142		1.8	31.5
80½	52½	2.40 Hat Pin	54½		6.2	18.0
325	275	6.83 Heavitree	325		2.7	15.1
275	245	11.60 Heavitree A	275		3.2	12.8
135	82½	4.87 Helicon Pub	82½	- 5		
270	110	17.60 Hercules Prop	270	+ 16½	1.1	
175	105	12.90 Highams Sys	145	+ 5		16.5
137½	120½	8.81 Highland Timber	135½			
93	65	1.26 Hurlingham	78½		1.6	50.9
107½	81½	6.47 Hydro-Dynamic	95½		4.7	12.2
172½	57	10.60 IES	61½		1.6	
147½	134½	7.03 I S Solutions	146½	- 1		49.6
105½	68½	28.30 Ind Brit Health	105½	+ 7½	1.2	22.4
127½	55½	21.00 Indpt Energy	119½			
133½	66½	12.10 Indpt Radio	67½			
203½	141½	44.80 Infobank Intl	179	+ 7½		
84½	42½	16.30 Inner Workings	83½			
125	102½	3.25 Integra As Mgt	125			
82½	17½	5.76 Intelligent Env	24½	+ 7		
110	42½	26.00 Internet Tech	64	- 6		
442½	222½	57.10 Intl Greetings	432½	- 5	1.9	16.6
179½	59½	37.40 IOC Intl	150			
172½	150½	7.59 ITG Group	172½			
155½	54½	4.80 Jardinerie Ints	94½	- 1		20.2
169	62½	6.93 Jasmin	169	+ 14		9.6
347	290	24.40 Jennings Bros	330		3.0	
4¼	3	4.84 J Lewis Hlord	3½		4.0	
62½	40	7.74 Jordec	45½	+ 1		14.5
5¼	1½	5.51 Just Group	2¾			
132½	91½	44.80 KS Biomedix	106			
50½	45½	5.23 Kern River	45½			
78	49½	5.60 Keystone Soft	50			
35	17½	Keystone Wts	20			
199½	172½	18.80 Kingfisher Ls	193½		1.3	16.1
130½	118½	5.14 Lady in Leisure	122½			
130½	92½	5.42 Landround	120½	+ 13	3.5	
132½	24	8.38 La Senza	25	+ 1		
150	85	17.20 Enterprises	92½		5.9	
401	340	28.10 Lawrence	401	+ 6	2.5	15.3
4050	3150	77.00 Lawrie Group	4050		2.3	10.6
99½	76½	6.98 Lepco	94½	- ½		37.2
498	326	81.80 Le Riches Strs	493	+ 9	5.3	15.7
14	9	0.46 Lite Numbers	9¼			
4	2	0.06 Lite Numbrs Wts	2			
535	480	9.70 Loades	485		0.3	19.3
106½	30	13.00 Loftus Road	32½			
12¾	4¾	1.98 Lon & Edn Publ	6½			
90	65	2.25 London Town	90	+ 5	3.6	7.9
119½	112½	3.88 Longbridge Intl	117½		2.1	16.4
87½	25½	6.38 Loox	27½			
3¼	1¼	3.46 Lotteryking	2			56.7
1	0½	0.09 Lotteryking Wts	0½			
88	36½	4.58 MMS Petroleum	37½	- 1		
27½	7	4.78 Magnum Power	7½			
371	239½	47.50 Majestic Wine	371	+ 36	1.2	26.3
19½	7	4.20 Manx & O'seas	7	- ¼		
57½	54¼	8.17 Market Link Pb	55			11.7
142½	95½	37.70 Marlborough Int	142½	+ 22		24.1
125	100	2.36 Matrix Hlthcare	102½		7.3	16.5
13¼	10¼	4.73 Mears Group	12¾		2.9	11.7
26½	13½	42.70 Medisys	25½	+ 5½		
98½	64½	40.60 Megalomedia	66		0.4	31.3
93½	56½	0.62 Megalomedia Wts	56½			
67½	39½	2.80 Melfot	40		7.8	29.5
65	22½	18.50 Memory Corp	35½	- 4½		
99½	70½	74.50 Metalsrussia	74½	+ 1		
71½	46	6.40 Methven's	63½			
25	11	2.71 Metrodome	11			
57½	50½	22.20 Minorplanet	56½	- 1		
84½	57½	4.24 Mondas	69½	- 3		
350	200	29.20 Moorepay	270		2.1	31.9
126½	88½	5.84 Mountcashel	90			
215	89	18.60 Mulberry Group	90	- 11½	2.1	15.4
40	2	1.71 MultiMedia	2¾			
21	15	1.13 NECA	15¼		6.1	7.8
54½	44½	18.90 NMT	48			
72½	52½	1.52 NRP	52½		3.0	22.4
195½	140	19.00 NSB Retail Sys	195		0.7	75.7
285	185	15.80 NWF Grp	200		5.0	11.7
220	175	12.40 Nash (Wm)	177½		5.4	6.3
300	260	7.28 Neill Clerk	260		1.8	16.4
85½	45½	7.55 Netcall	50	- 10		
80½	75	1.52 Nothomes	80			24.8
50½	25	4.81 Nthn Petlm	26			
48½	28½	3.06 Northstar Sec	48½			
23	3	0.46 Northstar Sec Wts	23			
130	112½	51.40 Nursing Home	129½	+ 1¼	6.0	20.7
10½	0½	0.25 Ommimedia	1			
97½	31½	1.06 On Line	32			7.1
65½	22½	12.80 Oxford Biomedica	22½	- 3		
3¾	1	14.80 Pacific Media	1			
69½	25	15.30 Pan Andean Res	35	- 2½		
245	220	5.76 Park Ests(Liv)	240		4.7	23.5
23¾	13	7.08 Pembertons	14¾			
57½	29	6.59 Personal No Co	42½			
152½	38½	39.50 Petra Diamonds	118	- 5½		
117½	13½	1.46 Petra Drmds Wt	87½	- 4		
137½	17½	9.53 Philippine Gd	18½	- 2		
70½	50½	10.90 Pilat Tech	50½			11.1
138½	97½	24.10 Polymasc Pharms	120½	- 11		
2¾	1½	3.28 Pordum Foods	1½			44.9
1½	0½	0.22 Pordum Fds Wts	1			
21½	12	13.70 Premier Asset Mgt	15½	+ ½		56.6
6	4½	103.40 Prestbury Group	4½	- ½	0.8	19.1
590	450	9.00 Preston Nth E	450	- 40		68.9
104½	92	15.10 Primary Hlth Pr	94½		4.2	28.4
590	280	100.20 Prism Rail	396	+ 10	1.6	
85½	56½	13.30 Pycraft & Arnold	85	- ½		13.6
127½	52½	10.60 Q Group	63½	+ 11		46.3
1265	732½	262.70 Ramco Egy	870	+ 7½	0.1	
6½	6	8.12 Range Cooker	6½	+ ¼		12.2
110½	77½	13.40 Raphael Zrn	90½		2.8	8.2
127½	67	10.90 Recycling Servs	67½		0.9	
125	28	4.53 Reflec	36½	- 2		
7¼	4¼	5.57 Revelation Plc	6		2.1	7.1
45	16½	10.90 Riceman Insce	16½	- 3		15.8
105½	74½	5.49 Romtec	105½		1.8	22.6
165	105½	11.70 SBS	165	+ ½	1.8	
182½	147½	17.30 SCi Ent	147½			13.8
42½	14½	3.60 SEA Multimedia	14½	- ½		
75½	62½	6.68 Sanbury Musc	67½			5.9
114½	104½	5.58 Savoy Asset Mgt	113½		4.5	14.0
174½	139½	28.10 Science Sys	165½		1.1	24.4
12½	5½	0.80 Scotswood Inds	7½			
6	3	6.13 Screen	3	- 1½		12.4
350	230	13.00 Scrutons	270	- 10	6.0	51.1
82	42½	8.29 Selector	42½			
30½	17½	1.01 Self Sealing	17½			
177½	154½	12.00 Shalibane	169½		3.3	14.1
104½	74	4.24 Shelton (M)	80	- ½	6.7	16.5
28	12½	75.10 Sibir Energy	28	+ ½		
28	12½	75.10 Sibir Energy	28	- ½		
270	180	36.10 Sinclair Montns	205	- 5		44.6
4½	2¼	8.78 Sira Bus Serv	4		1.9	15.2
1½	1	0.24 Sira Bus Wts	1¼			
3¾	0½	8.42 Snakeboard	1½			
84½	67½	4.57 Solid State Sp	72½		5.2	25.8
192½	152½	8.69 Solitaire	190½		3.9	14.2
34½	23½	2.42 Soundtracs	24		6.2	7.2
6½	3½	5.67 South Beach Cafe	3½			
783	619½	179.00 Southern News	736½		3.4	19.6
84½	65½	16.70 Southern Vectis	84½	+ 4	3.1	17.6
327	173½	37.70 Stattware	311½	+ 16½	0.4	40.8
635	86½	17.70 Stanford Rook	91½	- 4½		
177½	114	13.30 Stentor	114	- 2½		
70	37½	Stentor Warrants	48½	- 5½		
127½	77½	20.00 Style Hldgs	127½	+ 5½	1.5	15.7
155	127	14.50 Sutton Harbour	145		3.0	19.4
22	5	1.21 Syst Integ Rsch	9			
23	15	3.17 TDS Circuits	15	- ½		5.6
97½	37	5.99 Theo Fennell	37	- 1½		16.7
14	5	9.00 Thomas Potts	5		2.7	15.0
37½	22½	3.60 Tom Hoskins	35	- ½		
158½	80	17.30 Total Office	107½	- 1	5.6	6.7
675	375	30.50 TRACKER Netwk	575	- 30		36.9
675	375	30.50 TRACKER Netwk	575	- 30		36.9
150	55	18.80 Tradepoint Fel	65	- 7½		
167	140	5.32 Trendy Care	140		4.5	39.8
170	170	1.50 Trinity Care Pf	170		5.5	
60½	17¼	89.20 Trocadero	17½	- 2		
40	38	3.46 Univent	38			21.0
397½	297½	5.40 Utd Auctions	300	- 3½	3.8	4.3
280	120	18.50 VDC	176	+ 1	3.7	16.4
53	40	77.70 Victory Corp	41	- 1		
242½	45	2.35 Vianum	56			
240	170	4.76 Voss Net	170	- 5		
88½	49½	23.40 Waterfall	67	- 4½		
35½	27	6.17 Watermark	32½		3.1	10.8
7	5	7.25 Weeks Group	5½		2.4	9.9
115	75	3.08 West 175 Enter	75			
£280	£125	10.60 West Bromwich	£145			
13	10½	5.62 Western Selectn	13			51.7
4½	4½	0.28 Western Sel Wts	4½			
142½	44½	13.30 Westmount Engy	118½	- 13		
92½	80½	4.44 Whitecross	92½			
103½	45½	9.29 Winchester	75½	- 3		
197	157	35.30 World Telecom	162½	+ 4		
135	120	4.32 Wynnstay Props	135		4.6	14.0
12	6	4.50 Xavier Comp	7½	+ ½		6.6
157½	88½	4.25 Yeoman	88½			
300	215	20.90 Zergo	227½	+ 10		67.0
29½	4	0.92 Zicor Mining	4	- 1½		

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.59	2.42
Austria Sch	21.62	19.96
Belgium Fr	63.68	58.72
Canada $	2.466	2.278
Cyprus Cyp£	0.904	0.833
Denmark Kr	11.75	10.86
Finland Mkk	9.38	8.63
France Fr	10.29	9.51
Germany Dm	3.09	2.85
Greece Dr	487	448
Hong Kong $	13.64	12.44
Iceland	130	110
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.09
Israel Shk	6.23	5.58
Italy Lira	3048	2811
Japan Yen	230.03	212.50
Malta	0.678	0.619
Netherlds Gld	3.494	3.199
New Zealand $	2.93	2.69
Norway Kr	12.61	11.67
Portugal Esc	312.03	290.00
S Africa Rd	8.79	7.83
Spain Pta	259.29	240.50
Sweden Kr	13.65	12.55
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.31
Turkey Lira	336375	316497
USA $	1.759	1.616

Rates for small denomination only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.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CORPORATE PROFILE: BAT

THE FACTS

Market capitalisation: £16.7 billion.
Total revenue: £25 billion.
Operating profit: £2.5 billion.
Activities: financial services and tobacco.
Total number of employees: 164,000.
Financial services employees: 25,819.
Tobacco and other company employees: 55,220.
Associate employees: 82,815.
Subsidiary company locations: Latin America, Japan, Asia Pacific.
Tobacco market share: 12.8 per cent of the world market.
Funds managed: £47 billion.
Cigarette brands: Lucky Strike, Benson & Hedges, John Player and Kent.

THE BOARD

Earl Cairns is BAT's non-executive chairman. Lord Cairns is a former chief executive and deputy chairman of SG Warburg Group.
Martin Broughton, the BAT group chief executive and deputy chairman is its managing director, financial services. He is also a non-executive director of Whitbread.
David Allvey, group finance director.
Ulrich Herter, managing director, tobacco.
Martin Feinstein, president and chief executive officer, Farmers Group.
Sandy Leitch, chief executive, British American Financial Services, chairman Allied Dunbar, Eagle Star and Threadneedle Asset Management.
Rosalind Gilmore, a non-executive director. She is also a non-executive director of Homeowners Friendly Society. Former chairman and chief executive of the Building Societies Commission. Former director of the Securities and Investments Board.
Rupert Pennant-Rea, a non-executive director. Former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. Director of Caspian Holdings and the Stationery Office.
Sir Clive Thompson, a non-executive director. Group chief executive of Rentokil Initial and a director of J Sainsbury.
Clayton Yeutter, a non-executive director. Also a director of Caterpillar and of Texas Instruments. Formerly US Agriculture Secretary and US Trade Representative.

Martin Broughton, top left, with Rolf Huepi and Lord Cairns, chairman of BAT, when the merger was unveiled; Silk Cut is one of the group's best-known brands; Lord Rothschild, bottom left, and the late Sir James Goldsmith mounted a bid for BAT in 1989; Kenneth Clarke has joined the board of BAT's tobacco division

Kenneth Clarke, Formula One and Saks Fifth Avenue, New York's equivalent to Harvey Nichols, are an eclectic group. All three, however, have connections to BAT Industries, the £17 billion tobacco to financial services group, which has operations spanning the globe.

Mr Clarke, the former Chancellor well-known for his love of cigars, recently joined the board of the BAT Industries' tobacco division, just as it emerged that BAT was planning to buy a Formula One team to promote its Lucky Strike brand of cigarettes, while Saks Fifth Avenue was once owned, and then sold, by the conglomerate in its quest to move away from its core tobacco business.

The wide diversity of interests has become an increasing focus of criticism in recent years, as industry observers claim that the share price of the merged whole has significantly underperformed the value of the constituent parts.

These criticisms were answered in October when BAT announced a deal that effectively unbundles the tobacco business from the financial services operation. The proposed merger between BAT's financial services division — which includes Allied Dunbar, Eagle Star and Farmers in the US — and Zurich Insurance will produce one of world's biggest financial services organisations. It will have £211 billion under management and annual new business income of £24.7 billion.

The deal between Zurich, headed by Rolf Huepi, and BAT comes eight years after an attempted takeover of BAT by Lord Rothschild and the late Sir James Goldsmith. In 1989, the two made an audacious £13 billion bid for BAT, through Hoylake, a specially formed company. The main purpose of the bid, which failed, was to force BAT to demerge. The argument ran that separating the tobacco, financial services and paper businesses, in the shape of Wiggins Teape, would deliver better value to shareholders.

Pressure for a demerger has intensified since then. Conglomerates are no longer fashionable and the trading environment for both tobacco and UK financial services has worsened substantially.

Nearly 40 per cent of BAT Industries' tobacco revenue is generated in the US, where legislation looks likely to drive up the price of cigarettes by 25 per cent. Tobacco sales contributed 60 per cent of the record £2.5 billion operating profit achieved by the group last year. The UK financial services industry has also been hit by a £4 billion pensions mis-selling scandal. Sales of financial products, and pensions in particular, slowed down under a deluge of bad publicity. These factors have contributed to the underperformance of the share price over the past five years.

Although BAT Industries has shown a total return of 17 per cent to shareholders over the past year, it has underperformed the all-share index by 6.74 per cent and the FTSE 100 by 10.35 per cent. The five-year performance has also been poor. Shareholders have seen total returns of 53 per cent, a 31 per cent underperformance of both the FTSE 100 and the all-share index.

The share price has also managed to underperform Philip Morris, the US cigarette and food company, by 31 per cent over the past five years, and Commercial Union, the UK insurer, by 27 per cent over five years. Both operate in similar markets to BAT.

The finer details of the Zurich deal have yet to be disclosed. However, shareholders will end up holding stock in British American Tobacco and Allied Zurich, which will own 45 per cent of ZF Group — the joint company. Prior to completion of the deal, debts of £1.2 billion will be transferred to the tobacco subsidiary.

The merged company will consist of Farmers, Zurich Kemper Life, Universal Underwriters, Scudder and Kemper in the US, and Allied Dunbar, Eagle Star, Zurich Municipal and Threadneedle Asset Management. ZF Group hopes to make cost savings of £150 million a year within three years.

Analysts reckon the general insurance activities, and in particular Eagle Star, are the most vulnerable to the corporate knife. One said: "If Eagle Star had been independent, it simply would not have survived. It has lost so much money." Costs could be cut by integrating Zurich and Eagle Star's systems and reducing Eagle Star's 12,500 worldwide payroll.

The merger also has implications for Threadneedle Asset Management, which runs £31 billion for Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar policyholders. This company had hopes of offering third-party investment management services on a global scale — hopes starting to look unrealistic after the takeovers of Mercury Asset Management by Merrill Lynch, and of Morgan Stanley by Travelers Insurance in the US.

No more details about the merger are expected until next year, after each party has carried out due diligence. Analysts claim that it is difficult to work out an exact value for the financial services companies because BAT does not use the same accounting basis as other UK insurance companies. One said: "It is entirely possible that another company could come in and bid for the group."

The deal will leave Martin Broughton, group chief executive of BAT Industries, free to concentrate on the tobacco business. British American Tobacco sells approximately 670 billion cigarettes a year worldwide. It has manufacturing plants in places as far afield as Swaziland, Fiji, Japan and Chile, and manufactures brands such as Lucky Strike, Kent, Pall Mall, Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut.

The biggest factor influencing the company's tobacco sales is new legislation in the US, which advocates banning tobacco advertising, limiting civil litigation and restricting smoking in indoor premises. The US Government also wants cigarette manufacturers to make payments worth $358.5 billion (£215 billion) over the next 25 years to pay some of the medical costs for those affected by smoking. These payments will push up the price of a pack of cigarettes by a quarter. An analyst said: "No one knows whether increasing the price by this amount will actually stop people smoking cigarettes."

Integrity Works, which gave BAT Industries an ethical expression rating of only one, said: "BAT Industries has a statement of business conduct which is for internal use only. This not only flies in the face of best practice, it also sits oddly with a group having a heavy financial services involvement.

"Customers, as well as others, need and deserve to know what an organisation stands for, and equally what it will not stand for."

Crisp, which looks at executive pay, claims that, according to its calculations, Mr Broughton's remuneration package, of £1.2 million, is 38 per cent more than it should be. Crisp says that the pay of the non-executive directors was 23 per cent above average.

CAROLINE MERRELL

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"Demerging insurance should provide scope for a higher rating for the tobacco company. We do realise that there are problems with the US litigation. However, there is still scope for a big rerating. When compared to the other US tobacco companies, such as Philip Morris, British American Tobacco is on a much lower rating."

Jeremy Batstone, NatWest Stockbrokers

"The deal with Zurich Insurance is good for BAT shareholders, as it enhances the overall quality of the insurance. Zurich has a very good record in the insurance market. Tobacco is unchanged by the deal. However, there is big potential for rerating. Basically, at these values, Brown & Williamson, the US tobacco manufacturer, has a negative value."

Jonathan Fell; Merrill Lynch

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression[1]	1/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	5/10
Financial record	7/10
Share performance	3/10
Attitude to employees	5/10
Strength of brand	7/10
Innovation	4/10
Annual report	3/10
City star rating	6/10
Future prospects	8/10
Total	49/100

[1] Ethical expression is evaluated by *Integrity Works*. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2] *Crisp Consulting*.

Soros seeks greater investment secrecy

GEORGE SOROS, the billionaire speculator, has hatched a plan to disguise his shareholdings in companies subject to takeover bids. Making use of a little known rule, he has asked America's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to allow him to keep certain equity positions out of the public eye (Oliver August writes).

Mr Soros asked for secrecy after his investment strategies were repeatedly copied by other investors who had gleaned information about his positions from his SEC filings. If his request is granted the SEC will keep his holdings secret for at least a year rather than just a few weeks.

The new code of secrecy was used in Soros Fund Management's last account statement. It said in a Rule 13F disclosure that the filing "excludes certain confidential positions which have been filed separately".

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

FE FOCUS

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Global financial services pact expected to restore confidence in Asian markets

By Martin Barrow

A GLOBAL agreement to open banking, insurance and securities markets, forged at the weekend after a marathon round of talks at the World Trade Organisation in Geneva, should help to restore confidence in Asia's troubled markets and boost world growth, trade experts said yesterday.

The pact, agreed in the early hours of Saturday — two hours after the expiry of the official deadline — covers a broad range of services involving $18 trillion in global securities assets, $38 trillion in global bank lending and about $2.5 trillion in insurance premiums.

Under the deal 102 WTO members have agreed to remove barriers to foreign investment in financial services. Agreement was reached despite opposition from a large number of smaller countries that are complaining that it will serve as a charter for large multinationals to overwhelm smaller local competitors.

A relieved Renato Ruggiero, right, and his deputy, Warren Lavorel, after the talks

Mounir Zahran, the Egyptian ambassador, said that emerging economies had to accept because they needed the investment and financing for their own trade. Malaysia, meanwhile, said it would continue to limit foreign ownership of its financial enterprises to 51 per cent.

Lawrence Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, told a news conference in Washington that the pact should help to restore confidence in Asian markets rocked by currency devaluations, falling stock prices and weak banking systems. He said: "The extent will differ from country to country, but I think the willingness of countries to take this step at this difficult time is a demonstration of their recognition that the path of openness and integration offers them the best prospect for continuing the remarkable economic growth that has been the Asian story for the last several decades."

The WTO, under Renato Ruggiero, its Director-General, has now secured major accords to liberalise trade in the three fastest-growing international industries.

In February global telecommunications were brought under the world trade watchdog's umbrella. In March countries accounting for some 95 per cent of world trade in information technology products agreed, with a few exceptions and some longer phase-in periods, to remove all tariffs by 2000.

Demerger hopes set to lift shares of Coats Viyella

By Fraser Nelson

SHARES of Coats Viyella are set to leap today on hopes that the Jaeger clothing to precision engineering combine will this week confirm plans for a demerger which could value the whole group at £1 billion.

The company, currently capitalised at £714 million, is expected to announce the split as the centrepiece of the strategic view conducted by Michael Ost, chief executive. Analysts have said the shares, which closed at 101½p on Friday, could achieve a break-up value of 145p if the Coats Patons division is sold for £650 million and the Dynacast arm for £400 million.

Dynacast, a precision engineering company which makes telecoms and car parts, is the most successful of Coats Viyella's five divisions and generates more than a fifth of group profits on 13 per cent of sales.

However, the shares have been dragged down by problems with the company's fashion retail and clothing division, which include Jaeger, Viyella and Dorma.

The division is currently halfway through a £55 million restructuring programme to open cheaper textile factories overseas, while closing some UK factories.

The contract clothing division is understood to be losing out to Courtaulds Textiles and Dewhirst Group in orders from Marks & Spencer, which prefers most of its clothes to be made in the UK.

Mr Ost was brought to the company in May and has been working on the strategic review at the behest of PDFM, the institutional investor, which owns 15 per [illegible] company.

He has been promising [illegible] results of the review by the end of the year, and the City expects to be given details in the Christmas trading statement.

Sharp rise in labour turnover

By Philip Bassett

LABOUR turnover is increasing sharply in Britain as unemployment falls, new evidence from industry shows today.

Personnel managers say that the cost of replacing staff has risen "significantly" over the past 12 months and can now exceed £5,000 for replacing a single manager.

The Institute of Personnel and Development's annual labour turnover study says that 16 per cent of full-time workers left their jobs over the past year. The rate for part-timers was even higher, at 22 per cent, based on a sample of 731 organisations. Almost a quarter of workers who left their employer did so within the first six months of employment.

Sectorally, the hotel and leisure sector saw the highest labour turnover rates, at [illegible] per cent, followed by publishing (34 per cent) and food and drink (29 per cent). Lowest was the chemical industry, at 11 per cent.

Liberty victors to face fight over new chairman

By Paul Durman

THE Stewart-Liberty family and Brian Myerson, victors in last week's battle for control of Liberty, may this week seek another change of chairman at the London store company.

Mr Myerson and Odile Griffith, elected directors at Thursday's shareholder meeting that removed Denis Cassidy as chairman, are understood to regard the immediate appointment of Andrew Garety as a replacement as a step in the wrong direction. Mr Garety, who was Liberty's finance director, previously worked with Mr Cassidy at Boddingtons and was a staunch supporter during the recent proxy battle.

Mr Myerson, who has a 17 per cent stake in Liberty, and Ms Griffith, adviser to Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty and her family, are believed to have lined up an independent chairman. The two had previously suggested they would act as co-chairmen for an interim period. Mr Cassidy told the meeting on Thursday that the directors choose their chairman, not shareholders. Mr Garety's appointment was agreed prior to Mr Cassidy's removal. Despite winning seats on the board, Mr Myerson and Ms Griffith will be outnumbered by the four remaining Liberty directors at the board meeting scheduled for today.

Garety: staunch supporter

Boards with non-execs do better, says report

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

COMPANIES with non-executive directors on their boards do better than firms with dominant executives, new findings on the workings of British companies will show today.

The results of an inquiry into the roles and responsibilities of company boards to be published today confirms the importance of non-executive directors emphasised by the Cadbury, Greenbury and Hampel inquiries into corporate governance.

The inquiry, the first report from the Centre for Board Effectiveness, headed by Sir Adrian Cadbury, shows that the boards of UK listed companies with a majority of outside directors judge themselves to be better performers than those dominated by executive directors.

The study, carried out by Towers Perrin, the management consultants who advised the Greenbury inquiry into boardroom pay, and based on a survey of a sample of listed companies of different sizes and industrial sectors says that non-executives have a significant impact on board performance.

The report, set up by the Henley Management College, concludes that non-executive directors "significantly enhance board performance where their nominal power base is at least equal to that of their executive colleagues".

Sir Adrian Cadbury suggests that the acceptance in Britain's companies of the importance of good corporate governance has "progressed a long way since their limitations were exposed by the corporate excesses and collapses of the 1980s".

While up to now there has been only limited anecdotal and polemical support for the role of non-executives in companies, Sir Adrian says that the report presents "convincing evidence about their beneficial impact".

The report says that company chairmen acknowledge that boards are experiencing increasing pressure in reconciling their roles of business leadership and external accountability, and most accept the need to improve their effectiveness in this area.

The cost of the consumer's last fling

The season of good cheer may be almost upon us but for many retailers this is a time of high anxiety. Christmas can make the difference between a good year and a bad one. After last week's survey from the British *Retail Consortium* (BRC), which suggested that in November sales *may have fallen* by as much as 2½ per cent, followed by some negative comments *from individual* stores, there are plenty of worried faces in the retailing world. *Yet the* Bank of England is apparently still concerned about rampant consumer spending driving up inflation, and it stands ready to *raise interest* rates again to head this off. Something does not quite add up.

This Wednesday sees publication of the official *retail* sales figures for November, so we shall soon know whether the BRC survey was overly pessimistic. These figures may have a serious impact on market views of where the economy is heading and on the outlook for *interest* rates.

Because sales in November last year were *extremely strong, even* if this year's November figure is only down by 1 per cent, the annual growth of retail sales will fall from 6½ per cent to 4 per cent, thereby giving the impression of a sharp retail slowdown.

But these monthly movements can be highly misleading. Last *year, strong* November sales prompted widespread talk of a super-strong Christmas, but in the event, December sales (seasonally adjusted, of course) actually turned out to be weak. It is perfectly plausible that this year might see a reversal of this pattern, with a weak November followed by a *strong December. If retail sales in* December were to rise by just 1½ per cent (after a fall of 1 per cent in November) then the annual rate of growth would shoot up again to 6½ per cent, right back to the rate which rings alarm bells at the Bank of England.

We may be at one of those turning points in the economy when the forces making for continued strength mingle and conflict with the forces making for slowdown. This is where wise forecasters fear to tread. Nevertheless, here goes.

It has long seemed likely, I have thought, that business would be *strong this Christmas, not least* because of the influence of the windfalls from demutualising building societies. The bulk of this money was likely to be saved, but a proportion would be spent soon after it was received. Yet because *the money arrived in lump sums*, it was unlikely to be dribbled away on *everyday* spending or extra meals out. Rather it would be spent on substantial items.

ROGER BOOTLE

Household durables were an obvious choice, and it was striking to see how strong sales of these were in the immediate aftermath of the Halifax payout. Holidays were another candidate, and sales were strong throughout the summer. Ensuring a good Christmas, was, I thought, a third attractive use of the spare cash, with a possible spillover into the January sales. But thereafter, that would be *more or less that. In this case*, the growth, or even (temporarily) the absolute level, of retail sales would slide back as the windfall element faded out.

Moreover, there are other good reasons to believe that consumer spending will slow next year. Interest rates have risen by 1½ percentage points in little more than a year. That may not sound much in *relation to previous leaps in rates*, but because the starting level was comparatively low it has meant a jump in mortgage interest payments of more than 20 per cent — a huge increase for all those stretched to afford their mortgages.

Meanwhile, government policy should have a gradual restraining effect. Taxes are edging up while government expenditure — a big source of income and spending — is hardly growing at all in real terms. The super-strong pound *will not help retailers* either, deterring overseas visitors from coming here, and *making them* watch the pennies when they do.

In these circumstances, after their last hurrah at Christmas, it would come as no surprise if consumers put the brakes on in the new year. The Bank of England is *likely* to wait for evidence of Christmas trading *before deciding to raise* rates again, but if I am right about December spending being *relatively* strong, then I expect the Bank to increase rates to 7½ per cent in February.

Thereafter, what happens to interest rates will depend to a significant degree on what happens to the pound. Underlying *inflation* should trend down and edge below the Government's target of 2½ per cent in the second half of the year. This will take the pressure off the Bank and *open up* the possibility of lower interest rates. But interest rate policy focuses on the outlook two years ahead. If the pound falls sharply in reaction to the slowing economy and weaker net exports, then the Bank will *want to hold interest rates at this* level, despite the domestic slowdown. *If, by contrast, the pound* stays at these levels or, heaven forfend, goes even higher, then the Bank will surely shift to rate-cutting mode. In that case, we could even see rates of 6 per cent by the end of the year.

Enough of such prevarication. You'll be wanting a forecast, I *suppose. My view is that the* pound will fall and that the Bank will remain *concerned to head off* higher inflation (which will not in fact arise). Accordingly, I see rates remaining at 7½ per cent for some time — perhaps even to the end of 1998 — *before the Bank musters* the conviction to cut them. At times like this, when it comes to forecasts, it pays to play Scrooge.

Greenalls ready to reassure shareholders

By Dominic Walsh

LORD DARESBURY, chief executive of Greenalls, the pub and leisure group, will use full-year results tomorrow to reassure investors over the group's future strategy in the *wake of a disastrous* profit warning in September.

The group's *admission that* it took its eye off the ball after the acquisition of Boddington two years ago sent its share price tumbling to a low of 315p last month compared with almost 600p at the beginning of this year. Even the subsequent rally — the shares closed *at 407½p on Friday — has* been on the back of vague speculation of a bid from the likes of Whitbread or Bass. The damage was caused by a trading update in which Lord Daresbury, formerly Peter Greenall, admitted that the group had slowed down expenditure on adding new branded outlets at a time *when rivals were pumping* unprecedented amounts of cash into their retail pub concepts. This was compounded by news of "dull trading" in its North-West heartland.

The Greenalls statement, and a subsequent warning from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, *sent jitters* through the whole brewing and pub sector, although recent results from Scottish & Newcastle and Bass have eased fears over the industry's long-term growth propsects.

Lord Daresbury's comments prompted analysts to revise their full-year pre-tax profits forecasts down from *about £164 million to between* £155 million and £157 million compared with £149 million last year. However, some believe the market's reaction to have been overdone and expect tomorrow's results to show signs of progress towards regaining some of the *lost ground*.

The former National Hunt jockey is expected to highlight the group's plans to step up the pace of investment in its main brands while selling off the lesser pubs at the rate of about 100 a year. Capital expenditure this year will be at *least £200 million, with more* than half that being spent on brands such as Henry's Café Bars, Miller's Kitchen family restaurants and Henry's Table steakhouses. It expects to add more than 25 new pubs in the current year and 60 the year after that.

There will also be further investment in its De Vere and Village Leisure hotel brands. Revenue per available room was running at more than 10 per cent ahead after the first 11 months, and the group is *poised to develop a chain of* standalone health and fitness clubs based on the successful Village Leisure concept.

One analyst said last night: "Having quit brewing, Greenalls became a stock market darling, so the profit warning was a bit of a shock. But they *seem to be doing the right* things and I'm cautiously optimistic. They're not the sitting duck some people think."

Companies, page 43

Arcadian close to US takeover

By Dominic Walsh

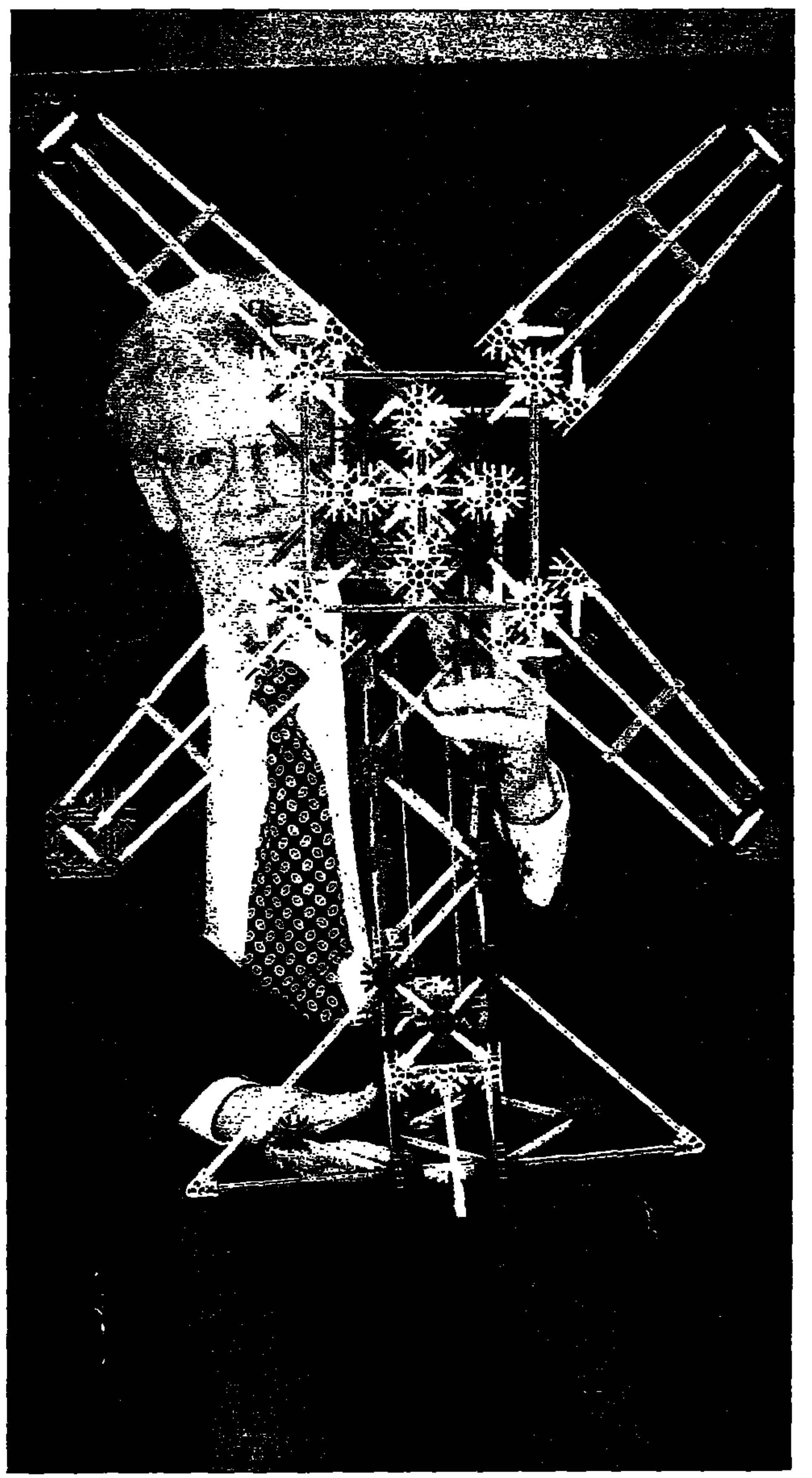
ARCADIAN International, the hotel group chaired by Sir Peter Parker, is thought *to be close to agreeing a* takeover by Patriot American Hospitality, the US real estate investment trust (REIT).

The Surrey group, which has a market capitalisation of almost *£90 million*, revealed in September that it *had received an approach*, but has steadfastly refused to identify the mystery bidder.

The time that has elapsed since then has prompted some observers *to conclude that the talks* may have hit problems. *However*, one industry source said: "A formal offer could be ready in the next few days. The technical and legal implications of Patriot's REIT status have complicated matters, but all the issues look to have been resolved."

Patriot, which only last week paid $1.3 billion for Interstate Hotels, the US group, is expected to retain Arcadian management and use it as the vehicle for its *ambitions to build a significant* presence in Europe. Central to that strategy will be the Malmaison joint venture, which will be rolled out in Europe's principle cities.

Arcadian is also involved in the £43 million redevelop*ment of the Great Eastern* Hotel, in the City of London, in partnership with British Land and Sir Terence Conran. The project is scheduled for completion in 1999.



Peter Brown would have pushed for a French site had he foreseen sterling's rise

Strong pound plays havoc at K'nex

By Marianne Curphey

K'NEX, *the American* construction toy that has wrested market share from Lego, has admitted that the strong pound has increased its costs this year by 25 per cent.

The company, started three years ago as a joint venture with backing from Hasbro, *the maker of Sindy dolls, has* just opened a factory in Ashford, Kent. However, Peter Brown, president of K'nex's UK subsidiary, said he would have pushed for the factory to be built in France had he known how strong sterling was going to be.

Mr Brown, former group managing director of Tomy in Europe and a past chairman of the British Toy & Hobby Association, said: "We are having to cut our costs by 25 per cent just to stand still, and *that is a tall order. The* strength of the pound has been a problem for us, but now that the Ashford factory has been established there is no chance of moving it."

The factory is on a site formerly owned by British Oxygen and represents a £4 *million investment by the US* parent company, K'nex International. It employs almost 100 people and the 115,000 sq ft factory serves as a worldwide distribution centre for the product, with markets spanning Europe, *Japan and* the Middle East.

K'nex is a 50-50 joint venture between Hasbro and a consortium led by K'nex inventor, Joel Glickman. One of the reasons for basing the factory in Ashford was to take advantage of the Channel *Tunnel, which has a terminus* there.

The construction toy sector is lucrative and K'nex claims to have gained 18 per cent of the market share since its launch three years ago. Lego, *the market leader, has a share* of 56 per cent worldwide.

European expansion planned for Firkin pub chain

From Dominic Walsh
in Utrecht

FIRKIN, the pub chain that brews on its own *premises*, is to be rolled out across Europe as part of a major international push by Allied Domecq.

The chain, purveyor of caste-conditioned ales such as Dogbolter and Old Corrup*tion, has just opened its second* site in Holland and is targeting Belgium, France and Luxembourg. Malcolm Wright, managing director of Allied Domecq Retailing International, said: "We believe we *could get up to 20 units in* Holland, including about five *brew sites, over five years.*"

The first Firkin pub outside the UK, the Fiddler 'n' Firkin, opened at The Hague last year at a cost of 4 million guilders (£1.2 million), including its own brew house. The smaller *Florin 'n' Firkin, in Utrecht*, cost almost 1 million guilders and has its beer supplied by its sister pub.

In Holland the group is looking for sites in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Maastricht. In *Paris it has four sites* at various stages of develop*ment, the first of which will* open on the Rue St Denis.

Initially, Allied Domecq will develop and operate the pubs from its own resources, although eventually it will look to franchise the concept, as *with its John Bull pub concept* which recently opened its 66th site in Beijing. It expects to spend about £25 million establishing the Firkin brand in Western Europe over the next five years.

Firkin, launched by David Bruce in 1979, was acquired by *Allied Domecq in 1991, when it* had 15 units. Last year it opened 40 pubs, taking the total in the UK to more than 160, representing a turnover of more than £100 million. The concept appeals mainly to *younger people and the company* tends to seek sites in areas heavily populated by students.

Wainwright in the hot seat

By Martin Barrow

THE new chief executive of Care First Group takes office today in the knowledge that his days with the embattled nursing homes company may be numbered.

Gerard Wainwright faces the daunting *task of leading* his company's rejection of a *£241 million hostile* bid by Bupa, the medical insurer. Mr Wainwright also faces the threat of a further bid from Chai Patel, *his predecessor as* chief executive, who left the company abruptly in August.

Although Mr Patel has not yet made a formal offer for Care First, he has lined up financial backing from HSBC *Holdings, the Midland* banking group, and BCP, the venture capital concern. Mr Wainwright's conditions of employment at Care First do not include any period of notice beyond one month.

Keith Bradshaw, chairman *of Care First, said*: "If an offer were made for Care First which the board felt properly reflected the value of the business, Gerard's appointment would not stand in the way of recommendation. However, should such an offer not be forthcoming we cannot allow Care First to be blown off course."

Mr Bradshaw will now become non-executive chairman.

Mr Wainwright, 47, has been advising Care First as a consultant since November. He was formerly chief executive of Richards Group.

In 1988 Mr Wainwright led a *management buy-in of* Nesbit Evans Group, a manufacturer of medical equipment and services that was subsequently taken over by Huntleigh Technology.

He has also led a Depart*ment of Health investigative* committee on aspects of community care.

Record for KPMG partners

By Robert Bruce

PARTNERS of KPMG, the accounting firm that is set to merge with Ernst & Young, *lifted earnings 24 per cent to* an average £256,000 in the year to September 30.

Publishing the first ever preliminary statement by an accounting firm, KPMG today discloses that fee income grew *17 per cent to £726 million and* distributable profit by 25 per cent to £145 million. Colin Sharman, senior partner, described the growth as "prodigious".

Fees from consultancy rose 36 per cent to £153 million, fees *from tax work* was up 27 per cent to £69 million and corporate finance work saw an 11 per cent rise to £36 million. Services to manufacturing, re*tail and distribution clients* rose 23 per cent to £171 million *and services to financial sector* clients rose 24 per cent to £134 million. London and the South East still powers the growth with a 30 per cent increase in fees. Elsewhere fees were up 20 per cent.

Mike Rake, chief executive, said KPMG had benefited from the reorganisation of the business along service lines, control of overheads and a huge increase in fees for *transaction services in a* highly active merger and ac*quisition scene. Although this* year saw a record average payout, KPMG's merger plans could put a damper on partners' earnings for the forseeable future.

KPMG's partners in America vote on the merger next weekend. The UK partners will see their application go to the competition authorities in Brussels by Christmas and will have their own prospectus *on the merger by the end of* January and a vote in Febru*ary. The firm does not expect* to hear from the regulatory authorities until March.

TRAVEL

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Eastern fires first salvo in price war

EASTERN GROUP has *launched* a *new price* war in the supply of domestic gas and electricity by pledging to cut bills by up to £150 for consumers prepared to switch suppliers for the first time.

The company aims to supply up to six million homes nationwide by the turn of the century, building on its existing three million electricity customers and *450,000 households* that have switched to Eastern Natural Gas as gas competition is phased in.

Eastern is offering up to 24.6 per cent off current British Gas standard prices, saving at least £100 a year on a standard £500 bill. Households switching to Eastern for electricity will receive a £30 *cashback plus typical savings* of between £20 and £50 a year.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar	1.6527 (-0.0036)
German mark	2.9306 (-0.0226)
Exchange index	103.7 (-0.6)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share	3235.6 (-44.2)
FTSE 100	5045.2 (-97.7)
New York Dow Jones	7838.30 (-310.83)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	15904.30 (-520.18)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *34*

WOOTZ

(c) A crucible steel made in southern India by fusing a magnetic ore with carbonaceous matter.

CHIROPLAST

(a) A handrest for piano practice. It formed part of the once popular Logier system. This was an eponym of J. B. Logier (177-1846) who promoted a system whereby ten or a dozen pupils could be taught simultaneously.

FORNIM

(a) To take away. To do away with or destroy. Also to take up, to appropriate by encroachment. The Old English word. "Han me fornime tung and speeche."

PORTUNAL

(c) An organ stop consisting of open wooden pipes, wider at the top than at the bottom, and having a particularly smooth tone.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 .../Qxh2+! 2 Kxh2 Rh6+ 3 Kg2 Bh3+ 4 Kh1 Bf1 checkmate.

Ford

Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 8 October, 1997 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 15 December, 1997.

Gross Distribution per unit	2.100 Cents
Less 15% USA Withholding Tax	*0.315 Cents*
	1.785 Cents
Converted at $1.6975	£0.01051546

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY; National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 15 December, 1997

Harsh lessons of the Hyundai debacle

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Scottish Office ministers are coming to terms with the aftermath of a Korean company's shock decision to mothball its mammoth semiconductor plant near Dunfermline, Fife. The news that Hyundai, hit by the financial crisis in Asia, may not proceed with Scotland's largest inward investment project to date has stunned government agencies. business leaders and local companies.

Not only is the prospect of some 2,000 promised jobs now in grave doubt: at least £30 million of public money has already been sunk into transforming the site of the new plant. An entire new road system, landscaping, sewage. electricity and communications networks have been installed north of the Forth Bridge alongside the M90 motorway, without the creation of a single new job.

It is hard to convey the dimensions of this setback. Hyundai was the jewel in Scotland's inward investment crown — hailed by the previous Government, which landed the contract. and the present one, which inherited it, as testimony that the country's economy was strong and stable. Foreign companies, it was claimed, were queuing up to invest, because Scotland had so much to offer. A skilled, well-educated, local workforce. good transport and a gateway to Europe were all just as important as regional selective assistance or generous subsidies.

Accusations that Scottish agencies were luring investors away from other parts of the UK with the offer of vast financial inducements were ridiculed. The truth, we were assured, was that Scotland was simply a better bet.

Only now has the extent of the gamble been exposed. Hyundai was heavily dependent both on the wider market for its silicon memory chips and on the soundness of the Korean economy. Once those wavered, the decision to pull back was swift and merciless. The company announced it was cutting overseas investment by 30 per cent, and the Dunfermline plant would be mothballed for "up to a year".

Although ministers, including Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, have made reassuring noises about this being a temporary setback, they have no idea whether Hyundai will return. No one looking at the current run on Korean banks, or the tight conditions imposed by the IMF in exchange for bailing out the economy, could possibly be optimistic about prospects.

Scotland's electronics industry has always been vulnerable to factors over which it has little control. The so-called "screwdriver economy", one which produces or assembles products that have been researched and developed elsewhere, tends to be the one that suffers first if a foreign company is retrenching. It is true that agencies such as Locate in Scotland have become highly skilled in attracting international investors, winning contracts from under the noses of the Irish, French or Welsh. It is also true that a skilled and well-trained workforce has been developed.

But despite two decades of manufacturing other people's inventions, Scotland has yet to develop its own indigenous electronics industry. It is thus at the mercy of boardroom decisions made in Tokyo or Los Angeles rather than at home. And the stakes in the case of Hyundai were very high. There must be questions over how £30 million of taxpayers' money could be spent on an industrial site without any guarantee that the plant would go ahead; there has been no mention of compensation if Hyundai were to pull out altogether; and there is now the very real possibility that the Dunfermline site will simply become an expensive white elephant.

Ministers were quick to point out that no regional selective assistance funds had been handed over, and that Hyundai itself had invested heavily in the project. But given the amount spent on a site that may now never be used, this is small comfort.

Ironically, the Hyundai announcement came on a day when a major investment triumph was being announced in Scotland. Cadence Design Systems of California is to go ahead with a computer chip design project in Livingston in West Lothian, which may generate up to 1,900 jobs. More important, however, is the nature of the deal. This is investing in the next generation of micro-chip, and the emphasis is on making Scotland a world-leader in developing it.

Four Scottish universities have been involved by Scottish Enterprise, Scotland's development agency, in creating a new masters degree course that would supply the highly skilled workforce that Cadence needs. Project Alba, as it is known, is precisely the kind of partnership that Scotland requires if it is to generate its own, rather than someone else's industry.

That might be enough to ensure that the Hyundai debacle becomes, eventually, just a bad, if expensive, memory. But until then there will be wounds to nurse and harsh lessons to be learnt.

Blair's balancing act tested as Labour ends 'opt-out'

Philip Bassett follows the progress of policies that give business most concern

Robin Cook, left, and Tony Blair are taking Britain into Europe's mainstream

Labour today takes what the business community will regard as one of the most significant steps since the general election. Ministers will agree to implement key European employment measures from which Britain was previously exempt under its opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

Before the election, the main business concerns about Labour's return to power included its plan to introduce a national minimum wage, its proposals to legislate for statutory trade union recognition and its intention to sign up for the social chapter.

Tomorrow Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, will guide the Bill to implement the minimum wage through its second reading in the House of Commons. Last *week business leaders co-operated* with the TUC on proposals to implement union recognition. And today's move at the European Union's social affairs council on the social chapter will complete the trinity.

John Major saw Britain's opt-out from the social chapter as one of his most significant achievements as Prime Minister. In one of the first acts of the new administration, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced the opt-out's demise. So far only two measures *have emerged from the social* chapter — a directive on European works councils for consulting with the employees of multinational companies, and another on parental leave, giving three months' unpaid leave for both parents after the birth of a child.

Today British ministers and their counterparts from other member states will agree to proposals from the European Commission to extend the provisions of both directives to the UK now that Britain has given *up its the opt-out. Both* will take two years to implement in the UK, coming into effect in December 1999, and are unlikely to give many businesses in Britain pre-millenium jitters. The parental leave requirements offering unpaid leave are in line with the practice of many good employers in Britain, while the operation of the works council directive meant that many key companies working in Britain have already in effect implemented it, in line with the practice at their other European sites.

Nonetheless the symbolic importance for business should not be underestimated: *Britain's isolation from the mainstream* of European social and employment issues is over. The move, which follows the weekend compromise on membership of the new EU grouping on economic and monetary union, may lead to an even greater integration on other European issues, and especially on EMU.

Britain's closer engagement with Europe is already having practical effects on European employment policy. Last month's EU jobs summit, for instance, was significant for a rejection of the old-style jobs policies associated with the European Commission, and in particular with Padraig Flynn, its Social Affairs Commissioner, who tried but failed to commit EU members to specific job targets. Britain, with the support of other key member states such as Germany, rejected the use of targets as impracticable, unachievable and misplaced.

Tony Blair underlined the change yesterday. Speaking on GMTV about the jobs summit, he said: "It would have been unthinkable that we could have been there, determining the policy agenda, under the previous administration."

Ian McCartney, Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, and Andrew Smith, Minister for Employment, *will take that point* forward today. As well as seeing the old social chapter *legislation applied to Britain* — and agreeing finally, after the EU's long-running process, a new directive equalising the rights for part-time workers, which will also apply to the UK — they will set out the social and employment priorities for the EU during Britain's presidency of the Union, which begins in just over two weeks.

They will emphasise what Mr Blair calls the "third way" over jobs, a new course between the dangers of over-regulation, which has offered a high degree of job security in Europe over the past 20 yers but few new jobs, and the dangers of unfettered job flexibility, which in America has *created 13 million jobs under* the presidency of Bill Clinton but which has left the bulk of the American workforce with little employment protection.

David Blunkett, the Employment and Education Secretary, says: "We have ended the opt-out from the social chapter." But he adds: "At the same time, we will oppose over-regulation, which puts jobs at risk."

Business remains sceptical of how such a blend can be achieved against the centralising force from Brussels on social affairs. They are uneasy, too, about the Whitehall carve-up since the election which has seen the issue of European social policy and legislation sliced awkwardly between a range of government departments.

Major: negotiated opt-out

The Foreign Office, which has responsibility for relations overall with the EU, is leading on the technicalities of ending the opt-out. The Department for Education and Employment is charged with negotiating policy issues on employment in Europe. And the Department of Trade and Industry has to implement any legal changes, including those that will be agreed today and the still-outstanding implementation of the European directive on working time, which business leaders believe will have far-reaching effects across industry.

In addition, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has made it clear throughout Whitehall that because jobs are so central to Labour's economic policy, he is in effect the lead minister on employment. Thus at the jobs summit the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Foreign Secretary were all in attendance, but no ministers from the Department for Education and Employment were present.

Some employment specialists believe that Mr Blair's *insistence on the primacy of* education as an issue for his Government is a central reason why employment matters are judged to be less important within the Education and Employment Department — a point that both Mr Blunkett and Mr Smith reject.

Under its presidency, Britain will in fact integrate the two issues still further, with the EU's education and social affairs councils brought together for a joint session in London in mid-March, though the Government will also host a jobs summit in Birmingham for the G8 countries in May.

Ministers insist that on employment and social policy, they will not be swept along by the Eurotide. Conservatives are concerned that Brussels will, for instance, try to push the idea of national-level works councils for all companies. This is currently being examined under the Maastricht mechanism by European employers and trade unions, the so-called "social partners".

Graham Mather, the Conservative MEP who deals with employment matters, says that such a move would be "inappropriate" for Britain — though he accepts that in a letter to him from the DTI, Mr McCartney is clear: "The Government awaits the response of the social partners with interest, but remains unconvinced of the need for additional EU legislation on information and consultation arrangements within companies operating purely in one member state."

The Government says that such judgments will characterise Britain's approach under new Labour to European employment issues: pragmatic, but firm — and based clearly within the UK's own economic and employment objectives of improving competitiveness, maintaining flexibility, and promoting jobs and growth. Whether such a mix can be achieved remains to *be seen; but today's move is a* significant step in that direction.

ADULT MELTUS EXPECTORANT WITH DECONGESTANT

IMPORTANCE NOTICE TO CONSUMERS AND RETAILERS (BATCH NUMBER - 1197P187)

Seton Healthcare Group plc in the UK is taking the precautionary measure of recalling packs of **ADULT MELTUS EXPECTORANT WITH DECONGESTANT** following the discovery that the incorrect grade of alcohol was used in its manufacture. Only a small number of bottles have been sold and this can only be done under a Pharmacist's supervision.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- If you have purchased **ADULT MELTUS EXPECTORANT WITH DECONGESTANT**, check for code **1197P187**. This will be located both on the bottom of the carton and on the label of the bottle in *the bottom right hand corner.*
- If you have taken **ADULT MELTUS EXPECTORANT WITH DECONGESTANT** Batch Number **1197P187** and now feel unwell please consult your Doctor.
- If the pack is coded **1197P187** please return it to your pharmacist or send it to the address appearing on the bottle marked for the attention of 'The Quality Manager'.
- You need take no further action if the code is NOT **1197P187** or if the product is **NOT ADULT MELTUS EXPECTORANT WITH DECONGESTANT.**
- **ALL OTHER MELTUS VARIANTS ARE NOT AFFECTED.**

Seton Healthcare Group plc apologise for any inconvenience caused by this recall, and should you have any queries please contact your local Pharmacist or phone the Medical Information Department on 0161 652 2222.

TELEVISION CHOICE

An artist rediscovered

Palin on Redpath
BBC2, 7.30pm

Anne Redpath may, as one expert declares in this film. be "one of the finest British artists of the century" but her reputation has not travelled much beyond her native Scotland. Enter Michael Palin, who bought two Redpaths, a landscape and a still life, for his home and was determined to discover more about the artist. The result is this film, first shown on BBC Scotland last month and now presented to the national audience. The quest takes Palin to the South of France, where Redpath lived in the early 1930s with her architect husband and three young sons and is still fondly remembered. But she came into her own as an artist only after her return to Scotland, spending her later years in Edinburgh and continuing to paint up to her death in 1965. Palin's tribute is typically warm, perceptive and generous.

Equinox: Conspiracy of Silence
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The stealing of scientific secrets is such big business in the United States that the FBI has set up a special unit to deal with it. Thanks to hidden cameras we can see the FBI in action. In a hotel room a scientist from an American university is trying to sell the formula for a genetically engineered protein to a Russian intelligence agent. But it is a sting. The "Russian" who hands over the money is no Russian but the man from the FBI. With a single formula potentially worth billions it is perhaps no surprise that scientific crime has proliferated, with the pharmaceutical and biotech industries as particular targets. There is an *unfortunate side* effect. Companies are having to become so secretive to protect their investments that legitimate medical research into areas such as cancer is being hampered.

The Sweeney
Channel 5, 9.00pm

A continued vote of thanks to Channel 5 for brightening up Monday evenings, even it is with a show that is a quarter of a century old. It is strange how memories of *The Sweeney*, for those of us who saw it the first time round, can deceive. It now seems much slower, with plots that ramble and sometimes get lost, while the legendary rough stuff looks as stylised as the violence in *Tom and Jerry*. Despite the flying fists and howls of pain nobody gets seriously hurt and by current standards there is a notable absence of blood. Indeed the show can almost be classed as a comedy, its enduring delight the wonderfully sardonic dialogue. Tonight's episode, by one of the best *Sweeney* writers Trevor Preston, sends Regan (John Thaw) and Carter (Dennis Waterman) on the trail of a modern-day Bonnie and Clyde.

Porters Keith and Mark (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Hotel
BBC1, 9.30pm

We discovered a couple of weeks ago that David Smith, chef at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, has two dislikes. One is his colleague, Brian Birchall, the operations manager, and the other, is vegetarians. Both come back to plague him tonight. The hotel is getting ready for a large banquet and Birchall tells the kitchen that there are more vegetarians than they had catered for. Chef is not best pleased. Elsewhere in the Adelphi, Eileen Downey, the forthright general manager, is called to deal with a student function which gets out of control and Keith, the porter, is eyeing up the chances of a free holiday abroad. Rich in human drama and crisply edited, *Hotel* has emerged as the best of the current crop of documentary soaps. No wonder that it is attracting audiences of more than eight million.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Monday Play: A Miracle in No Man's Land
Radio 4, 7.45pm

Not only is this play based on real events but it forms part of a campaign that is being waged by the British Legion and others to win pardons for some of the soldiers who were convicted and executed for desertion during the First World War. The play has been written by Alex Jones, who also appears as Joseph Taylor, a deserter. Taylor claims that he was commanded to lay down his arms by a vision of Jesus. He later admits, having escaped execution, that he invented the vision but claims that his escape from the war zone was in itself a miracle. The logic is somewhat tortured but the tale is well told. Christopher Scott appears as Captain Simpson, the officer detailed to defend Taylor.

Dear Diary
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

This is a marvellous half-hour which will leave listeners either wanting to fly at once to Cuba or, not go near the darned place in a million years. Cuba is of course run by our dear old friend Fidel Castro, just about the last man on the planet still scraping at the communist fiddle while all about him is chaos. He is mercifully absent from this programme, though at the same time he is at the very heart of it. The real subject though is Claudia Lightfoot, who lives and works in Havana. This diary tells of three months in her life in the community, whose warmth and verve she conveys superbly. Apparently the Cuban image of England is culled from the works of Agatha Christie and Benny Hill.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. Includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session **8.30** Live Music Update with Briggy Smale **8.40** Andy Kershaw. Includes a session from Robyn Hitchcock **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am *Sarah Kennedy* **7.30** *Wake Up to Wogan* **9.30** *Ken* Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Malcolm Laycock with Big Band Era and Dance Band [illegible] **9.00** Big Band Special **9.30** Hayes Over Britain **10.30** [illegible] Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** David Mellor **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Sportstrack. Music and sporting memories from 1968 **8.00** The Monday Match: Manchester United v Aston Villa from Old Trafford **10.00** News Talk with Nick Robinson **11.00** News Extra up **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Chris Evans **10.00** **(FM)** Robin Banks **(AM)** Graham Dene **1.00pm** **(FM)** Nick Abbot **(MW)** Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00** **(FM)** Paul Coyte **(AM)** Caimin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Andy Wint

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Grass is Singing **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Matter for Debate **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Founders of their Faith **9.30** Westway Access **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Omnibus **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Jazzamatazz **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Seven Days **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Options **3.00** World News; (648 only) News in German **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Westway Access **3.30** The Ed Stewart Show **4.00** News **4.15** Seven Days **4.30** The World Today; (648 only) News in German **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Just a Minute; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Multitrack Hit List **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Northern Lights **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Multitrack Hit List **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Westway **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Seven Days **1.45** Sense and Sensibilities **2.00** Newsday **2.30** On Screen **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Civilization **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann with the Trumpet Alarm Call and Breakfast Baroque **9.00** Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week. Plus Michael Berry presents a recipe for quick Christmas cake **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Elgar (Violin Concerto in B minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.30** Newsnight **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning **8.00** Evening Concert. An evening of music performed by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Respighi (The Pines of Rome); Pergolesi (Salve Regina); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat); Haydn (Symphony No 83 in G minor) **10.00** Michael Mappin. Includes at **11.35** Nocturne **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes, including Debussy (Prelude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune); Schumann (Fantasiestücke); Verdi (Libiamo ne' Lieti Calici); Ginastera (Danzas Argentinas); Handel (Oboe Concerto No 3 in G minor); Wagner (Liebestod, Tristan und Isolde)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Bartok (Romanian Folk Dances); Tavener, reconstr Keyte (Quemadmodum); Gounod (Petite Symphonie); Mozart (String Quartet in B flat)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Copland (Ching-a-Ring Chaw); Saint-Saëns (String Quartet No 2 in G); Mozart (Crudele; Non mi dir, Don Giovanni); Levinson (Five Fires); Schubert (Impromptu in A flat); Vivaldi (Concerto in D); Mozart (Dove il Perfido? Don Giovanni); Bantock (Sapphic Poem); Haydn (Piano Trio in E flat)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Sergei Prokofiev
1.00pm The Radio Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Chilingirian Quartet. Beethoven (String Quartet in A minor)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. Ulster Orchestra under En Shao, with Nikolai Demidenko, piano, Hagai Shaman, violin. Includes Nielsen (Overture Helios); Hindemith (Symphony Mathis der Maler); Glinka (Valse-fantasie); Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 2); Nielsen (Symphony No 2, The Four Temperaments)
4.00 Music Matters, with Ivan Hewett (r)
4.45 Music Machine. Verity Sharp visits the Loughborough Bell Foundry to find out how church bells are made
5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty introduces great performances by the pianist Dinu Lipatti, the Tallis Scholars and the Hollywood Quartet, plus Nigel Kennedy's powerful performance of Walton's *Viola Concerto* with André Previn and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century). A concert given last night at the Albert Hall, London. Irina Chistiakova, mezzo, London Symphony Chorus, Royal Philharmonic under Daniele Gatti. Stravinsky (Circus Polka); Mussorgsky, orch Ravel (Pictures from an Exhibition); Prokofiev (Cantata Alexander Nevsky)
9.10 Postscript: Role Play. In the first of four programmes, Michael Billington talks to Michael Pennington and Fiona Shaw about Shakespeare's *Richard II* (r)
9.35 Benjamin Britten. Steuart Bedford conducts the Northern Sinfonia, recorded at the 1977 Aldeburgh Festival, in Britten's *Prelude and Fugue*
10.00 Voices. Susan Sharpe introduces settings of works by the German poet Heine. With Turid Moberg, mezzo, Susie Allan, piano, Richard Edgar Wilson, tenor, and Eugene Asti, piano
10.45 Mixing It. Mark Russell and Robert Sandall present a blend for different musical tastes
11.30 Composer of the Week: Alexander Goehr (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather presents a two-part musical tribute to Ronnie Scott. Tonight, he is joined by the pianist John Critchinson, a long-time member of the Ronnie Scott Quintet
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for a Day **8.45** Perhaps, Prime Minister. Howell James and George Bridges look back at what really happened in the last three years of Conservative government (3/3) **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with the *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests
10.00 (FM) News; Dear Diary. See Choice (5/6)
10.00 (LW) News; Daily Service
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 Money Box Live, with Vincent Duggleby
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Wildbrain. Lionel Kelleway presents the second semi-final of the natural history quiz **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Hand in Glove. The second of three new episode of Stephen Mulrine's period drama. With Ian Mottat and Martyn James
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker reviews a new production for the Welsh National Opera of Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea*, with Sally Burgess and Michael Chance
4.45 Short Story: On the Shingle, by Candia McWilliam, read by Tracey Wiles
5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Jon Sopel **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. The last of the current series with Humphrey Lyttelton (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme. Derek Cooper tastes Korean food in New Malden, Surrey (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: A Miracle in No-Man's Land, by Alex Jones. With Alex Jones, Christopher Scott, Anthony Pedley and John Webb. See Choice
9.15 Better Than Sex: Five O'Clock in the **Afternoon,** by Timberlake Wertenbaker (3/4) (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Candide. Anton Lesser reads Voltaire's classic satire. Translated by John Butt, abridged by Andrew Simpson (6/8)
11.00 (FM) At the Shoulder of History. John Miller talks to Mikhail Gorbachev's former interpreter, Pavel Palazchenko (5/5) (r)
11.00 (LW) Education Matters. A look at the world of learning with David Walter
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. A roundup of the day's events in Westminster
11.30 (FM) Death on the Nile. Agatha Christie's classic murder mystery, dramatised by Michael Bakewell (3/5) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Conversations with My Agent, by Rob Long, read by Rob Morrow (1/5)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

هكذا من الاملاء

Now there, surprisingly, is a funny thing

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

The news that I had volunteered to watch the **British Comedy Awards** (ITV, Saturday) from start to finish, all two and a half hours of the damned thing, soon spread. Neighbours organised a rota to deliver isotonic drinks every half-hour and my wife, a health food, er, nut, produced a potion said to be effective against MSS.

Moronic Speech Syndrome is of course the biggest risk offered by an awards programme, assuming that any of the viewers can stay awake long enough to catch it. Or so I had thought, in my sniffy, middle-class sort of way.

Shame on me. In fact the awards ceremony proved to be, or at least proved to contain, one of the television events of the year.

The category of best newcomer promises very little and this year — the eighth that these awards have been handed out — it promised even less than usual, for there were only three nominations: Phil Kay, the manic comic, Jack Docherty of the eponymous chat show on Channel 5 and Graham Norton, nominated on the basis of his work as stand-in when Docherty is away thinking up new ways to be nice to Kylie Minogue.

And the winner is . . . Graham Norton. Blimey, that was a bit embarrassing, like John Prescott winning best newcomer in the Whitehall Farce awards. A camera caught Docherty's face in one of those "smile, dammit" poses and Norton, having been introduced as an *"Irish homosexual", galloped* towards the stage as if the faster this was over, the better.

The comedy awards have two main purposes: to fill a huge chunk of the ITV schedule on the cheap and to allow the denizens of British *comedy to tell the rest of us* how brilliant they are. In the first aim the show works perfectly. In the second it achieves the reverse of the intended effect by demonstrating that such British comedy as is worth celebrating is either thin on the ground or growing whiskers.

So, in a viewers' phone-in conducted while the show was on air, *Only Fools And Horses* won the "people's choice" award with 41 per cent of the vote. David Jason, the star, won top comedy actor. Yet *Only Fools* no longer exists except in the guise of Christmas specials.

Another oddity of these awards, *which are decided by the Writers'* Guild of Great Britain, is that some of them are divided by network. Is this to give all the channels a bigger shout or is it to lengthen the awards show so that more people can get drunk?

Probably both. So there was a top Channel 4 and BBC 2 personality (Paul Whitehouse) and there was a top ITV personality (Cilla Black; please, I can't stop to *answer questions), but I lost track* of the top BBC1 personality; the pills must have been wearing off.

Of course, the person who actually deserved an award didn't get one, because he was introducing the show. I like Jonathan Ross: *there, I have said it.* He rescues events like this from the depths of tackiness by insisting on a semi-detached position and by using material that has a genuine edge.

I would make a lousy judge at these events. Lily Savage won best entertainment programme for *An Evening With Lily Savage*, so either that was a heck of a lot better than her present series for the BBC, **The Lily Savage Show** (BBC 1, last night) or the Writers' Guild *will not be asking me round to* confuse their deliberations. Paul O'Grady collected the award on Saturday wearing civvies but the voice was straight out of the Savage larynx and savage it certainly is.

Perhaps that is part of my problem: the voice simply grates. Last night the show centred on Lily's attempts to give up smoking, a lost cause in her case: "I could have a diseased lung in me handbag and I'd still smoke." But *giving up cigarettes is an area that* comedy surely exhausted years ago, and to work now it needs much more subtle material. But Savage is not a persona designed for subtlety.

It has to be said that the weekend was not entirely a barrel of laughs. **In Your Dreams** (BBC 2, last night) was the second drama in the *Love Bites* season. This was about date rape: two students, Clare and Jamie (excellently played by Thandie Newton and Oliver Milburn), go out together, attend a party, take in a few of the usual substances and return to Clare's bedsit for coffee. Jamie leaves but returns pleading *for shelter from the rain.* Clare takes pity, gives him the sofa. Next day she claims rape. He claims consent.

We the viewers see most of it from Clare's viewpoint until the case reaches court. The jury seems *to have accepted Jamie's claim as* to what a girl inviting a boy in for coffee actually means: "It's a code, we all know what it means." Surely such attitudes are out of date now? But Jamie is set free and only in a last flashback, *seen from* his viewpoint, do we learn that he was guilty.

A word of welcome for a late-night pilot programme that deserves a longer run. **The Sundays** (Channel 4, Saturday) is fronted by *the Times columnist Melvyn* Bragg and has a panel and a live audience deciding which half-dozen stories should be on the front pages of the Sunday papers, using as a basis for their debate the first editions of the actual Sunday papers.

I have to agree with John Witherow, Editor of *The Sunday Times*, that audiences may say they want worthy stories such as the Somalian flood tragedy on front pages but what millions actually pay for is the latest on Paula Yates.

- *Matthew Bond is away*

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (40405)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (45863)
9.00 Good Living A vegetarian variation of the traditional Christmas meal (1198134)
9.25 Style Challenge Nicholas Parsons and Frank Carson receive makeovers (1177641)
9.50 Kilroy (2815931)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (1692196)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (8684370)
11.35 Change That In Sutton Coldfield (3800221)
12.00 News (T) and weather (9331028)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (2535221)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (5215009)
1.00 News (T) and weather (48950)
1.30 Regional News (17377950)
1.40 The Weather Show (86288009)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (48932824)
2.10 Petrocelli (r) (1986554)
3.00 Vets' School Last in series (r) (T) (5689)
3.30 Playdays (7641318) **3.50** Enchanted Lands (8111047) **4.00** Bodger and Badger (7645738) **4.15** Noah's Island (3255405) **4.40** Goosebumps (6779641) **5.00** Newsround (T) (3337739) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (6230467)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (497979)
6.00 News (T) and weather (486)
6.30 Regional News (738)
7.00 This is Your Life Michael Aspel invites another unsuspecting personality to take a trip down memory lane (T) (2270)
7.30 Here and Now Katie Derham reports on how up to one quarter of all breast-cancer screening clinics in Britain are failing to meet government targets (950)
8.00 EastEnders (T) (6318)
8.30 Spark Rejected by Beth and relentlessly pursued by Ursula, Ashley hopes his love life is finally looking up following a chance encounter with a beautiful barmaid. Last in series (T) (5825)
9.00 News (T) and weather (1467)
9.30 Hotel A bomb scare rocks the Adelphi, but it's not long before things get back to normal as the chef and the banqueting boss lock horns (T) (95283)
10.00 Panorama: Eurofighter The debate surrounding Britain's most expensive defence procurement project (T) (768399)
10.40 Ruby Wax *Meets* Sharon Stone (r) (T) (635486)
11.10 Film 97 with Barry Norman *Spice World — The Movie, Home Alone 3* and *George of The Jungle* starring Brendan Fraser as the loinclothed hero. Helena Bonham Carter talks about *The Wings of the Dove* based on Henry James's tale of passion and betrayal (T) (572844)
11.40 Shogun Warrior (1991) Period adventure, with David Essex, Christopher Lee. A Samurai warrior journeys to Spain where he ignores his mission to acquire modern firearms for the Japanese army in favour of wooing a beautiful woman. Directed by Gordon Hessler (782115) FILM
1.15am Weather (9532581)
1.20 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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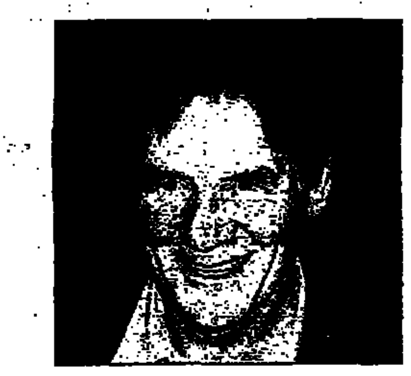
BBC2

6.00am Education: Musical Prodigies? (61486) **6.30** Images of Education (16863)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (signing and T) (3117318)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (2304318) **7.40** Penelope Pitstop (r) (8764979) **8.05** Blue Peter (r) (T) (6959196) **8.30** Juniper Jungle (r) (9963196) **8.40** Orville (r) (2928283) **8.45** Harry and the Hendersons (r) (T) (5492216) **9.10** The Fugitive (r) (T) (1764318) **10.00** Teletubbies (12365)
10.30 Laurel and Hardy's Laughing Twenties (1965) Comic compilation from the bumbling duo (46573) FILM
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show (r) (79757) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (13689) **1.00** The Greedysaurus Gang (r) (33891592) **1.05** Hairy Jeremy (r) (33890863) **1.10** Hammer it Home: new DIY series. Today: how to fit a lock (73549825) **1.30** A River Somewhere. *Tom Gleisner and Rob Sitch* start a world fly-fishing tour in Australia's Victoria State (75860) **2.00** Take a Meal: Vaux en Beaujolais (r) (92621134) **2.15** Going, Going, Gone (45024979) **2.40** News (T) (7797486) **2.45** Oldie TV (5837115) **3.25** News (T) (3756394) **3.30** The Village (r) (844)
4.00 Ready Steady Cook (979) **4.30** Through the Keyhole (2522115) **4.55** Esther: Mother and daughter relationships (5901641) **5.30** Today's the Day (115)
6.00 The Simpsons Homer becomes a local hero (T) (487028)
6.25 Battlestar Galactica (r) (T) (211283)
7.15 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (882979)



Presenter Michael Palin (7.30pm)

7.30 Palin on Redpath Michael Palin sets out to learn more about the Scottish artist Anne Redpath (T) (592)
8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor Diagnosing and treating irritable bowel syndrome. Last in series (T) (7660)
8.30 Land of the Tiger The Himalayas: blue *sheep, brown bears, red pandas* and snow leopards (T) (201047)
9.20 Trade Secrets Professional builders pass on useful tips (131738)
9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks (r) (T) (93825)
10.00 Does China Exist? Paul Merton offers a unique perspective on the unexplained (T) (70486)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (577134)
11.20 A Date with an Artist (159047)
11.55 Weather (576080)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (87790)
12.30am Learning Zone: Eve Arnold (6595177) **12.45** 20th Century Women (4250626) **1.35** Changing Voices (8077852) **2.00** Movie Making (38245) **4.00** Greek Language and French Experience (18697) **5.00** Business and Training (32061)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2683592)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (1193689)
9.55 Regional News (T) (7939931)
10.00 The Time, the Place (94641)
10.30 This Morning (T) (97421221)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (9320912)
12.30 News (T) and weather (5234134)
12.55 The Fashion Police (T) (5219825)
1.25 Home and Away Terri shoots Saul (T) (73555486)
1.50 Murder, She Wrote (9921592)
2.40 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman: The Library (r) (T) (5825370)
3.20 News (T) (5769919)
3.25 Regional News (T) (1778060)
3.30 Tots TV (2078689) **3.40** The Slow Norris (8100931) **3.50** Cartoon Time (8106115) **4.00** Snow White — a Wolves, Witches *and Giants Special* (7663134) *4.15 Sooty* Christmas Special '97 (7051115) **4.50** How 2 Christmas Special (6793221)
5.10 Home and Away (r) (T) (9203405)
5.40 News (T) and weather (623467)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (554)
6.25 Regional Weather (376573)
6.30 Regional News (134)
7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers Live entertainment game show hosted by Phillip Schofield (2738)

The Webster family (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street Zoe steals baby Katie from the Mallets. Natalie has a bombshell for Kevin and Sally Webster (Michael Le Vell and Sally Whittaker) (T) (55318)
8.30 Police Academy 6: City Under Siege (1989) with Bubba Smith, David Graf and Michael Winslow. More crime-busting comedy with the inept police cadets. This time they are pitted against the Wilson Heights Gang. Directed by Peter Bonerz (T) (17486) FILM
10.00 News (T) and weather (67912)
10.30 Regional News (T) (119399)
10.40 WALES: Departures Drama set against the background of a Welsh regional airport (1/5) (293660)
10.40 Conan the Destroyer (1984) with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Grace Jones. This sequel sees the heroic warrior from the past setting off to retrieve a magic gem for the evil Queen Taramis, unaware that she has ordered his death when his mission is complete. Directed by Richard Fleischer (86232757) FILM
11.40 WALES: Highlander (136196)
12.40am Football Extra (8291210)
1.40 War of the Worlds (r) (7028332)
2.35 Rockmania (r) (5488158)
3.35 ITV at the Belfort Festival (3/3) (2741901)
4.35 Coronation Street (r) (T) (1275535)
5.30 News (82245)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (5219825)
1.50 Blue Heelers (4446283)
2.50-3.20 High Road (4949221)
3.50-4.00 Cartoon Time (8106115)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9203405)
6.25-7.00 Central News (765689)
10.40 Film: Born to Run (83265399)
12.35am Sound Bites (6745832)
12.45 Football Extra (704968)
1.45 Late and Loud (7860351)
2.50 Central Jobfinder '97 (442210)
4.50 Eastern Mix (79957413)
5.20 Asian Eye (4431429)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (9320912)
12.55 Home and Away (5219825)
1.25 High Road (24385329)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (4454202)
2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (4949221)
3.50-4.00 Cartoon Time (8106115)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9203405)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (18134)
10.40 Film: Born to Run (86232757)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (5219825)
1.50 Countdown to Christmas (5033776)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (1990757)
3.50-4.00 Cartoon Time (8106115)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9203405)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (554)
6.30-7.00 Perfectly Pets (134)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (133979)
10.45 The Best of Roy and HG (574221)
11.45 Highlander (419931)
4.35am Short Story Cinema (79952968)
5.00 Freescreen (26210)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (5219825)
1.55 Millionaires (36237496)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (1990757)
3.50-4.00 Cartoon Time (8106115)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9203405)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (765689)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (133979)
10.45 The Best of Roy and HG (574221)
11.45 Hollywood's Greatest Stunts (419931)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (38573) **9.00 Something So Right** (84689) **9.30 Film: Curly Top** (3715739) **10.50 Film: Valley of Fire** (1823776) **12.00 Right to Reply** (64825) **12.30 Montel Williams** (25347) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (50498486) **1.15 Miffi** (50486641) **1.30 Against Nature** (80282) **2.30 Raging Planet** (71196) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (912) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (937) **4.30 Coltrane's Planes and Automobiles** (931) **5.00 5 Pump** (9100660) **5.15 Ffeil** (8387234) **5.30 Countdown** (283) **6.00 Newyddion** (847486) **6.10 Heno** (223028) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (588641) **7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (860028) **8.00 Rhyw Fath O Fusnas** (9028) **8.30 Newyddion** (1863) **9.00 Equinox** (4047) **10.00 Sgorio** (1308955) **11.05 The Real Holiday Show** (467991) **11.40 The American Football Big Match** (250950) **12.55am-1.55 Arthouse** (8386332)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (33115)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (38573)
9.00 Something So Right (T) (84689)
9.30 Curly Top (1935, b/w) starring Shirley Temple. A musical about an orphan adopted by a wealthy man. Directed by Irving Cummings (3715739) FILM
10.50 Valley of Fire (1951, b/w) starring Gene Autry. A western adventure directed by John English (1823776) FILM
12.00 Sesame Street (64825) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (r) (54383) **1.30** To Baldly Go. A man goes to the barber's to have new hair woven over his bald patch (72693370)
1.50 Who's Minding the Store? (1963) starring Jerry Lewis. A slapstick comedy about an accident-prone dimwit in a department store. Frank Tashlin directs (88293931) FILM
3.30 Collectors' Lot from a converted coach house in Surrey (T) (912) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (937) **4.30** Countdown (T) (2517283) **4.55** Montel Williams (T) (5903009) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (283)
6.00 Home Improvement: Wilson's Girlfriend Wilson is attracted to Jill's professor (T) (196)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (776)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (984047)
7.55 Schubert Shorts The first of four programmes celebrating the life and works of Franz Schubert (202979)
8.00 Movers and Shakers: School's Out A group of youngsters have forsaken computers in favour of traditional board games (6/6) (T) (9028)

Ellacott and Robbins (8.30pm)

8.30 Pantoland The last in the series features veterans of pantomime Nigel Ellacott and Peter Robbins, the ugly sisters in *Cinderella* in Woking alongside Gary Wilmot and Rolf Harris (4/4) (T) (1863)
9.00 Equinox: The Conspiracy of Silence How the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries are protecting themselves from thefts of newly-developed drugs (T) (4047)
10.00 Cracker: To Say I Love You Fitz unravels the psyche of Tina while her dangerous lover, Sean, is still on the loose. With Robbie Coltrane (3/3) (r) (T) (1308955)
11.05 Armstrong and Miller *Last in the* comedy series (T) (467991)
11.40 The American Football Big Match (250950)
12.55am Football Italia (r) (56807974)
3.10 Springhill More drama from the Liverpool estate (6400333)
4.35 The Gingerbread House *(1996) starring* Danielle Hawley and Danny Barnham. Two children are left alone in the house of their dead grandfather. Directed by Colin Finbow (1181142) FILM
5.35 Schools: Backtracks (6121332)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (4398979)
7.30 Milkshake! (7678738) **7.35** Kablam! (9253931) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (6152365)
8.30 WideWorld How animals have adapted to extreme conditions (2/10) (7502806)
9.00 Espresso Consumer magazine (7125931) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (4580370) **10.30** Pole Stars. Following snow geese migrating from the Artic tundra to the Mississippi river delta (r) (T) (7607450)
11.00 Leeza Chat show (3409592) **11.50** Double Espresso (90065863) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (3902842) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (1698028)
1.00 5 News (88930318) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (4274950) **2.00** 5's Company (3486028)

Segal and Jackson (3.30pm)

3.30 A Touch of Class (1973) George Segal and Glenda Jackson in an Oscar-winning romantic comedy about a married American businessman who has an affair with a British divorcee. Directed by Melvin Frank (T) (4369467) FILM
5.30 Whittle Audience participation quiz show (T) (4847592)
6.00 100 Per Cent (4844405)
6.30 Family Affairs (T) (4835757)
7.00 Exclusive Entertainment news (5296370)
7.30 Animal Outposts: Up a Gum Tree The echidna, or spiny anteater, a native of the Australian outback (T) (4824641)
8.00 Period Rooms The teams are challenged to create a Victorian living room decorated for Christmas (T) (5212318)
8.30 5 News (T) (5291825)
9.00 The Sweeney: Bait Vintage Flying Squad drama starring John Thaw and Dennis Waterman (8862221)
10.00 The Comedy Network introduced by the former Butlin's redcoat, Boothby Graffoe (2552301)
10.30 Tibs and Fibs Lighthearted medical quiz (2752509)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Comedy and chat (5003950)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6180592)
12.45am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (24361622)
3.45 Asian Football Show (5948055)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (T) (5916993)
5.30 100 Per Cent (7017968)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

- **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (549573) **9.00** Hotel (10776) **10.00** Another World (79844) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (59080) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (32738) **1.00pm** Geraldo (41486) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (55776) **3.00** Jenny Jones (41912) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (60047) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (4115) **6.00** The Live6 Show (3955) **6.30** Married with Children (1757) **7.00** The Simpsons (5844) **7.30** Real TV (3711) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (80393) **9.00** *Poltergeist: The Legacy* (99863) **10.00** Sliders (36953) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (70573) **12.00** Late Show (66806) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (26351) **2.00** Long Play (6164622)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888. Each film costs £2.99 per viewing

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
Michael Collins (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Courage Under Fire (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
D3: The Mighty Ducks (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 58)
Dead Presidents (1995)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Little Bigfoot II: The Journey Home (1995) (34532) **8.00 Sky Riders (1976)** (33299) **9.30 Rough Cut (1980)** (58399) **11.30 Big Bully (1996)** (92541) **1.30pm UFOria (1980)** (96582) **3.00 *Little Bigfoot II: The Journey Home* (1995)** (79689) **6.00 The Karate Kid III (1989)** (55850) **7.30 Big Bully (1996)** (34025) **9.00 Jury Duty (1995)** (52228) **10.30 Stolen Youth (1996)** (19124) **12.00 Rich and Sil (1995)** (253271) **1.45am Party Camp (1986)** (639332) **3.25 Hercules in the Underworld (1994)** (7352993)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Terror in a Texas Town (1958) (7673180) **8.00 Captive Island (1995)** (37379) ***10.00 Time Warrior: Planet of the Dino-Knights* (1995)** (25639) **12.00 Dazed (1994)** (50221) **2.00pm Tennessee's Partner (1955)** (65346) **4.00 Captive Island (1995)** (7823) **6.00 August (1996)** (35467) **8.00 Christmas Every Day (1996)** (77325) ***10.00 Naked Souls* (1995)** (53347) **11.35 Primal Fear (1996)** (51958270) **1.50am Legends of the Fall (1995)** (95550500) **4.05 August (1996)** (282582)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Three Coins in the Fountain *(1954)* (87105115) **5.45 In Harm's Way (1965)** (45055660) **8.30 Jaws the Revenge (1987)** (3535825) *10.00* **Darkman (1990)** (8245931) **11.40 Jacknife (1989)** (7865778) **1.25am Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker (1995)** (4023968) **3.20 Cat People (1942)** (78145790) **4.30** Close

TNT

9.00pm Ryan's *Daughter* (1970) (82883979) **12.15am King's Row (1942)** (32058968) **2.30 Elvis, That's the Way It Is** (61495177) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Spanish Primera Liga (30793) **9.00** Racing News (43979) **9.30** Aerobics (49641) **10.00** Football Special (68841) **11.30** World Sport Special (85370) **12.00** Aerobics (23115) **12.30pm** Sailing (53573) **1.30** Football Special (16370) **3.00** Basketball: Birmingham Bullets v Derby Storm (99467) **5.00** Sailing (2399) **6.00** Sports Centre (5979) **6.30** Football League Review (9931) **7.00** Manchester United v Aston Villa — Live (4981660) **10.30** Sports Centre (33582) **11.00** Sailing (25047) **12.00** Football (93974) **2.00am** Sports Centre (67719) **2.30** Football League Review (73326) **3.00** Sports Centre (94451) **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (9731134) **7.30** Windsurfing (9710641) **8.00** Racing News (5553196) **8.30** World Sport Special (5552467) **9.00** Ice *Hockey: Nottingham v Manchester* (9163573) **11.30** Windsurfing (1822329) **12.00** Football League Review (1909080) **1.30pm** Sports Unlimited (1683202) **2.30** World Sport Special (6738592) **3.00** World of Sailing (2145950) **3.30** Showjumping (9654844) **5.30** Football League Review (6709080) **6.00** Windsurfing (6739321) **6.30** V-Max (6720573) **7.00** Sports Centre (2137931) **7.30** World Motor Sport (2022689) **11.30** Football League Review (6442860) **12.00** V-Max (8618210) **12.30am** Sports Centre (1908351) **1.00** Belgrade: Race Through History (9706061) **1.30** NHL Olympic Teams (4813158)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm NFL (63205237) **3.30** Spanish Primera Liga (95090660) **5.30** V-Max (28791467) **6.00** Belgrade: Race Through History (28781080) **6.30** NHL Olympic Teams (28705560) **7.00** Fish TV (56707196) **8.00** Netball: England v New Zealand (56716844) **9.00** Belgrade: Race Through History (35736405) **9.30** NHL Olympic Teams (61474221) *10.00 Super League* Classics (63816028) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

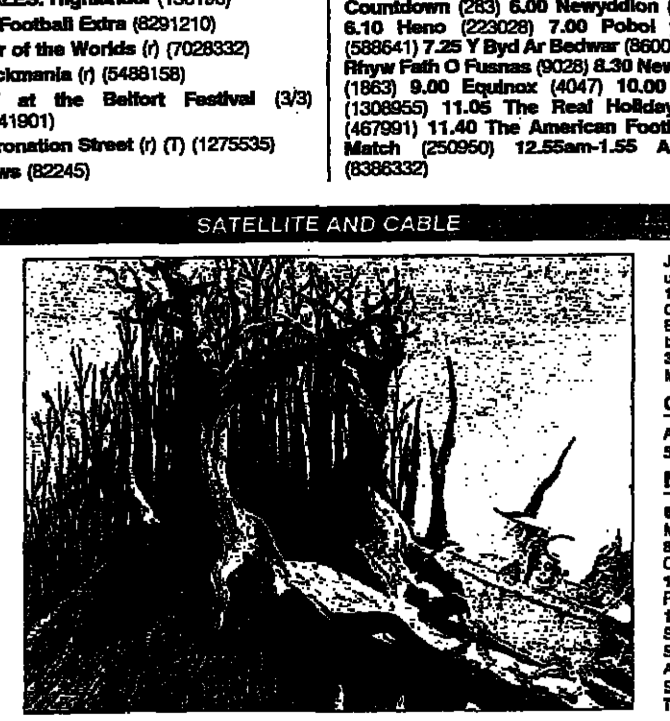
7.30am Sailing (13202) **8.00** Skiing: Men's World Cup Downhill (76931) **9.00** Bobsleigh (60318) **10.00** Ski-Jumping (19486) **11.00** Biathlon (84689) **12.30pm** Cross-Country Skiing: World Cup (90844) **2.00** FIFA Confederations Cup (88028) **3.00** Football: United Arab Emirates v South Africa — Live (17863) **5.00** Skiing: Men's World Cup Night Slalom — Live (7457) **6.00** Speedworld Magazine (53844) **7.00** Skiing: Men's World Cup Night Slalom — Live (72202) **8.30** Football: Czech Republic v Uruguay (86554) **10.00** Eurogoals (54134) **11.30** The Night of Prospects (83385) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Bullseye (4468115) **7.35** Neighbours (4244080) **8.00** Crossroads (2326689) **8.25** EastEnders (8066554) **9.00** The Bill (6165912) **9.30** Howards' Way (9475554) **10.00** Bless This House (1543115) **10.30** The Sullivans (8161196) **11.00** Boon (8190202) **12.00** Crossroads (46252047) **12.25pm** Neighbours (46255134) **12.55** EastEnders (2186844) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi! (4371863) **2.10** Open All Hours (6841405) **2.50** Last of the Summer Wine (9417196) **3.30** The Bill (3937660) **4.00** Juliet Bravo (38778757) **5.05** EastEnders (1230047) **5.40** Bob's Full House (4211221) **6.25** That's Showbusiness (8833496) **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine (6355757) *7.40 Rosie* (8664009) **8.20** Open All Hours (5890383) **9.00** The Bill (1967009) **9.30** Nice Work (68337757) **10.40** Yes, Minister (5624776) **11.20** Paul Merton: The Series (3963370) **11.55** Between the Lines (3561009) **12.50am** Spitting Image (4047061) **1.20** Miami Vice (2582429) **2.10** Shopping (84744156)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (8168370) **7.00** Coronation St (6582825) **7.30** Families (6594660) **8.00** Blind Date (6125979) **9.00** Within These Walls (4050950) **10.00** Donahue (6530844) **11.00** Hart to Hart (6570090) **12.00** Coronation St (8923202) **12.30pm** Families (2493757) **1.00** On the Buses (6581196) **1.30** Please Sir! (2492028) **2.00** The Good Guys (7008318) **3.00** Donahue (7223660) **4.00** Mission: Impossible (7219467) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (3087573) **6.00** Families (7350134) **6.30** Coronation St (7341486) **7.00** Blind Date (8807427) **8.00** Hart to Hart (4993365) **9.00** Coronation St (7248979) **9.30** Hale and Pace (2409221) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (1639298) **11.00** Close



The Nightmare Before Christmas (Disney Channel, 8.00pm)

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm Gridlock (13683757) **5.30** Hey Dad II (28706399) **6.00** Blockbusters (28796912) **6.30** A Country Practice (28710592) **7.00** Get Back (48438671) **7.30** Pull the Other One (28716776) **8.00** Birds of a Feather (83988509) **8.30** London Bridge (48438626) **9.00** Chancer (56701912) **10.00** Soldier, Soldier (55711399) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84437486) **12.00** Pull the Other One (63794852) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (54016968) **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree **6.30** Rosie and Jim **6.45** Winnie the Pooh **7.00** Aladdin **7.30** Tex Avery **8.00** Dinosaurs **8.30** Bonkers **9.00** Gummi Bears **9.30** Chip 'n' Dale **9.55** Small Stories **10.00** Sesame Street **11.00** Winnie the Pooh **11.15** Rosie and Jim **11.35** Sing Me a Story **12.00** Tots TV **12.30pm** It's Fun to Learn with Spot **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame Street **2.00** Amazing Animals **2.30** Gummi Bears **3.00** Tale Spin **3.30** Goof Troop **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa **4.30** Aladdin **5.00** Gargoyles **5.30** Dinosaurs **6.00** Blossom **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Home Improvement **7.30** Wonder Years **8.00 FILM: The Nightmare Before Christmas** **9.15** Making of *George of the Jungle* **9.30** Dave's World

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Dolly and His Friends **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Inspector Gadget **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats **11.00** Sweet Valley High **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **1.00** The Tick **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** The Tick **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** Sweet Valley High

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Batman **9.00** Earthworm Jim **9.30** Romuald the Reindeer **9.45** Romuald the Reindeer **10.00** Oscar's Orchestra **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Spirou **12.30pm** Sonic **1.00** Batman **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** Iznogoud **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Batman **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes **6.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Neverending Story **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas **12.00** Paddington Bear etc **12.30pm** Little Red Tractor etc **1.00** Dr Seuss **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Animal Show **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Rocko/Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch *6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close*

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** Madison **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** No Naked Flames **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** TX Sx **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Move on Up **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** The $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Karaoke Challenge **9.15** Winner Takes All *10.00 Treasure Hunt 11.15 Karaoke* Challenge **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** The Big Valley **2.30** National Geographic Explorer **3.30** Where I Live **4.00** Jeux sans Frontieres **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (4814467) **9.00** Tour *of Duty* (4927931) **10.00** *Red Shoe Diaries* (5026776) **10.45 FILM: Children of the Corn** (1984) (8901863) **12.45am** Tour of Duty (1257413) **1.45** Red Shoe Diaries (5429245) **2.30 FILM: Children of the Corn** (1984) (2890142) **4.30** Family Dog (9592333) **5.00** Starsky and Hutch (4531245) **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (4370) **7.30** Roseanne (3757) **8.00** Ellen (6478) **8.30** Cybill (9825) **9.00** Cheers (32127) **9.30** Taxi (61863) **10.00** Frasier (22486) **10.30** The Kenny Everett Show (31134) **11.00** Still in Bed with MeDinner (57432) **11.30** Ellen (89757) **12.00** Roseanne (70448) **12.30am** Nightstand (51871) **1.00** Soap (97887) **1.30** Taxi (36284) **2.00** Still in Bed with MeDinner (58061) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (71968) **3.00** Frasier (45121) **3.30** The Kenny Everett Show (68448) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (3040202) **10.00** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (3036009) **11.00** Friday the 13th (6341931) **12.00** Sightings (8334500) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (9629993) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3431603) **2.00** Dark Shadows (7553974) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (7469581) **3.00** Friday the 13th (9268413) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting **9.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** Garden Party **10.30** New Yankee Workshop **11.00** Andy's Angling Adventures **11.30** Hometime **12.00** The Diceman **12.30pm** Hammer it Home **1.00** Yan Can Cook **1.30** The Restoration Game **2.00** Furniture on the Mend **2.30** Antiques Trail **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (3921009) **4.30** Roadshow (3843221) **5.00** Ancient Warriors (8178979) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (3934573) **6.00** Walk on the Wild Side (9485931) **7.00** Discovery News (8159115) **7.30** Disaster (3944960) **8.00** Untamed Amazonia (4910841) **9.00** Seven Go Mad in Peru (4930405) **10.00** South African Visions: Taxi Wars (8184047) **10.30** South African Visions: Buppies (8160467) **11.00** Wings (8186009) **12.00** The Diceman (7243055) **12.30am** Roadshow (7927535) **1.00** Disaster (6885662) **1.30** Discovery News (9846239) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Explorer (8803221) **8.00** Mothers of the Wild: Part Two (8889641) **9.00** The Life and Legend of Jane Goodall (8809405) **10.00** Braving Alaska (8802592) **11.00** Inside the White House (5129912) **12.00** Explorer (2754790) **1.00am** Close

TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm A Shared World **1.00** Caribbean Diary **1.30** Railway Adventures Across Europe **2.00** Reel World **2.30** On the Road to the Islands **3.00** Holiday International **4.00** Cities of the World **4.30** Greg's World **5.00** Aspects of Life **5.30** Ocean World **6.00** Sports Safaris **6.30** A Fork in the Road **7.00** Islands in Paradise **8.00** On the Horizon **8.30** The Flavours of France **9.00** An Aerial Tour of Britain **10.00** On Tour **10.30** Snow Safari **11.00** Widlake's Way **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Hitler's War Machine (8577450) **5.00** The Great Ships (2136202) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (7555979) **7.00** Biography: Burt Lancaster (2619467) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** The Green Gourmet **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Twelve Chefs of Christmas **2.00** Frances Bissell's West Country Christmas **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Surprise Chefs **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** Can't Stand the Heat **4.30** Planet Nosh **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Why Me? **9.30** Gordon Elliott **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** Young and the Restless **11.55** Brookside **12.25pm** Jimmy's **1.00** Cheap Chic **1.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.05** *Hart to Hart* **3.00** Live at Three **4.10** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Cheap Chic **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: Child's Cry** **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Ru Ba Ru **8.00** ZEE Business Show **8.30** Raahat **9.00** Ghar Basa Ke Dekho **11.30** Margarita **12.00** Parampara **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00** Hindi **FILM: Jadugar** **4.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **4.30** Udan Choo **5.00** Pop Korn **5.30** Dance Mania **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** Mast Must Show **7.00** Your Zindagi **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News and Euronews **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Hindi **FILM: Khel** **12.00** Close

MTV

The 24 hour music channel

VH-1

The video hits channel

SPENDING SPREE 45
Roger Bootle predicts festive final fling

BUSINESS

COMPANIES 43
Canadian stake lifts prospects at First Choice

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY DECEMBER 15 1997

Davies urges Inland Revenue to allow gradual retirement

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

HOWARD DAVIES, chairman of the Financial Services Authority, today calls for an urgent review of Inland Revenue pension rules in order to promote flexible retirement packages.

The call is part of a new drive to press for so-called "gradual retirement", under which employees move slowly from employment to retirement, mixing together income from both pensions and earnings.

Companies in the Employers' Forum on Age, a business lobby group, say that Inland Revenue rules are currently holding back employers and employees in Britain, and the UK economy as a whole, from the benefits of flexible retirement practices.

Businesses in the forum, which includes Marks & Spencer, the Post Office, British Airways, WH Smith, the CBI, the Bank of England, J Sainsbury, B&Q and Manpower, suggest that the traditional picture of retirement has become "obsolete", though employers are prevented from offering new ways of retiring to their employees.

The forum suggests that the retirement model for the future will be gradual retirement, where employees transfer from full-time employment to full-time retirement via a period of part-time work. This allows a smoother change, permits employers to benefit from retaining the experience of older staff while recruiting new blood and offers greater workforce flexibility to the benefit of the wider economy.

At present, while anyone over 50 may retire and take a pension, at the moment they must retire fully and take a full pension, precluding the possibility of drawing a partial pension alongside a partial wage from the same employer — though Revenue rules allow for such a mix to be achieved if a person retires from full-time employment with one company and takes part-time employment with another.

Mr Davies, who also chairs the Employers' Forum on Age, says today: "If we are to adapt to changes in our lifestyle and our economy, we must pave the way for greater flexibility in retirement. The Inland Revenue should reform its current rules to allow individuals to claim partial pensions alongside part-time earnings from the same employer, making gradual retirement a realistic option for employers and employees alike."

Insisting that gradual retirement has "enormous benefits", the forum says that current Revenue rules make it impossible to implement without individual employees suffering a "serious" drop in income.

Korea poised for massive intervention

BY MARTIN BARROW

SOUTH KOREA'S central bank is poised for massive intervention in Asia's turbulent financial markets this week as the Government seeks to reassert control over the crisis that has engulfed the region.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) yesterday gave warning that Asian market turmoil could cut growth in the world's major developed economies by as much as one percentage point.

The crisis will be top of the agenda when President Bill Clinton meets Theo Waigel, the German finance minister; Michel Camdessus, head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF); Robert Rubin, Treasury Secretary; and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, in Washington tomorrow.

The talks take place amid fears that a $57 billion (£33.7 billion) rescue package arranged by the IMF will prove insufficient to restore stability. Last week South Korea's financial markets continued to slide on fears that the IMF disbursements may be too slow to meet an estimated $20 billion of short-term debts due by the end of the year.

On Friday Lim Chang Yuel, the Finance Minister, said he would ask the IMF to speed up disbursements but this request was swiftly brushed aside by the United States.

Today the central Bank of Korea will begin pumping in a massive amount of money into securities houses and trust and investment firms. The move is based on optimistic, but widely doubted, predictions that South Korea's available foreign reserves would soon reach $20 billion.

South Korea's currency lost about 30 per cent of its value even after the IMF agreed to pour its billions into the economy, and has lost more than half of its value against the US dollar since the start of the year. The crisis has weighed heavily on campaigning for the country's presidential election on Thursday.

The OECD, whose members include South Korea, said the troubles in South East Asia could potentially knock one percentage point off OECD growth, with Japan and others in the region bearing twice as much of the pain as the US.

In its twice-yearly *Economic Outlook*, the organisation cut its Japanese growth forecast for the second time in a month, putting 1997 growth at around 0.5 per cent.

The OECD acknowledged that things were changing so fast amid the financial turmoil elsewhere in Asia that its forecasts for South Korea were no longer reliable.

Asean summit, page 14
Global pact, page 44

New Acer factory to create 1,200 UK jobs

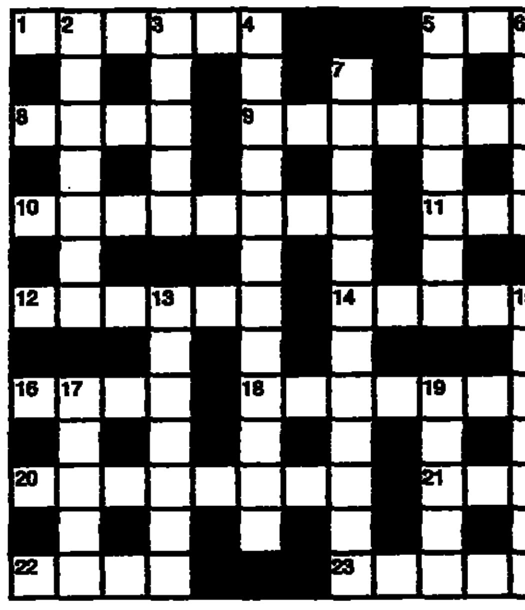
ACER, the Taiwanese computer producer, will today announce that it will create 1,200 jobs with the construction of a monitor factory on the outskirts of Cardiff (Fraser Nelson writes).

The news, which comes six days after Toyota shunned the UK to build a new car factory in France, will relieve fears that the turmoil in Far Eastern markets is threatening investment from Asia. Acer, the world's third largest PC manufacturer, has shown none of the signs of financial weakness displayed by the South Korean *chaebol* conglomerates that employ 11,400 workers in the UK.

Wales has been one of the main beneficiaries of Asian expansion, enjoying £2 billion of investment from South Korean companies alone. There have been fears that LG, another Korean *chaebol*, may have to scale back plans for a £1.3 billion plant in Wales, creating 1,700 jobs.

Magnus Linklater, page 46

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1277

ACROSS
1 An element; a type of copy (6)
5 Ticket; comb (wool) (4)
8 Fend (off); guardianship (4)
9 Disclaim (8)
10 Done without; assumed (conclusion) (8)
11 A rope; a fabric (4)
12 Malagasy primate (3-3); yes (3,3)
14 Span. sword-making city (6)
16 Savage; random (4)
18 Secret designation (4,4)
20 Complete dither (4,4)
21 Coagulated milk (4)
22 Promise (given); info (passed) (4)
23 Slightest breeze (6)

DOWN
2 Body-structure science (7)
3 Move (reluctantly) (5)
4 Close shave (6,6)
5 Advisory, governing, assembly (7)
6 Happen again (5)
7 One pretending to be lower class (8,4)
13 (Books) checked (7)
15 Blameworthy conduct (7)
17 Ice-block house (5)
19 Space in wall for statue (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1276
ACROSS: 1 Deter 4 Palaver 8 Ballistic 9 Rot 10 Tab 11 Tête-à-tête 12 Style 13 Ambit 16 Barbarous 18 Fin 20 Rap 21 Delacroix 22 Allergy 23 Linen
DOWN: 1 Debit 2 Tallboy 3 Raid the larder 4 Potato 5 Lackadaisical 6 Verve 7 Retreat 12 Siberia 14 Buffoon 15 Motley 17 Repel 19 Nixon

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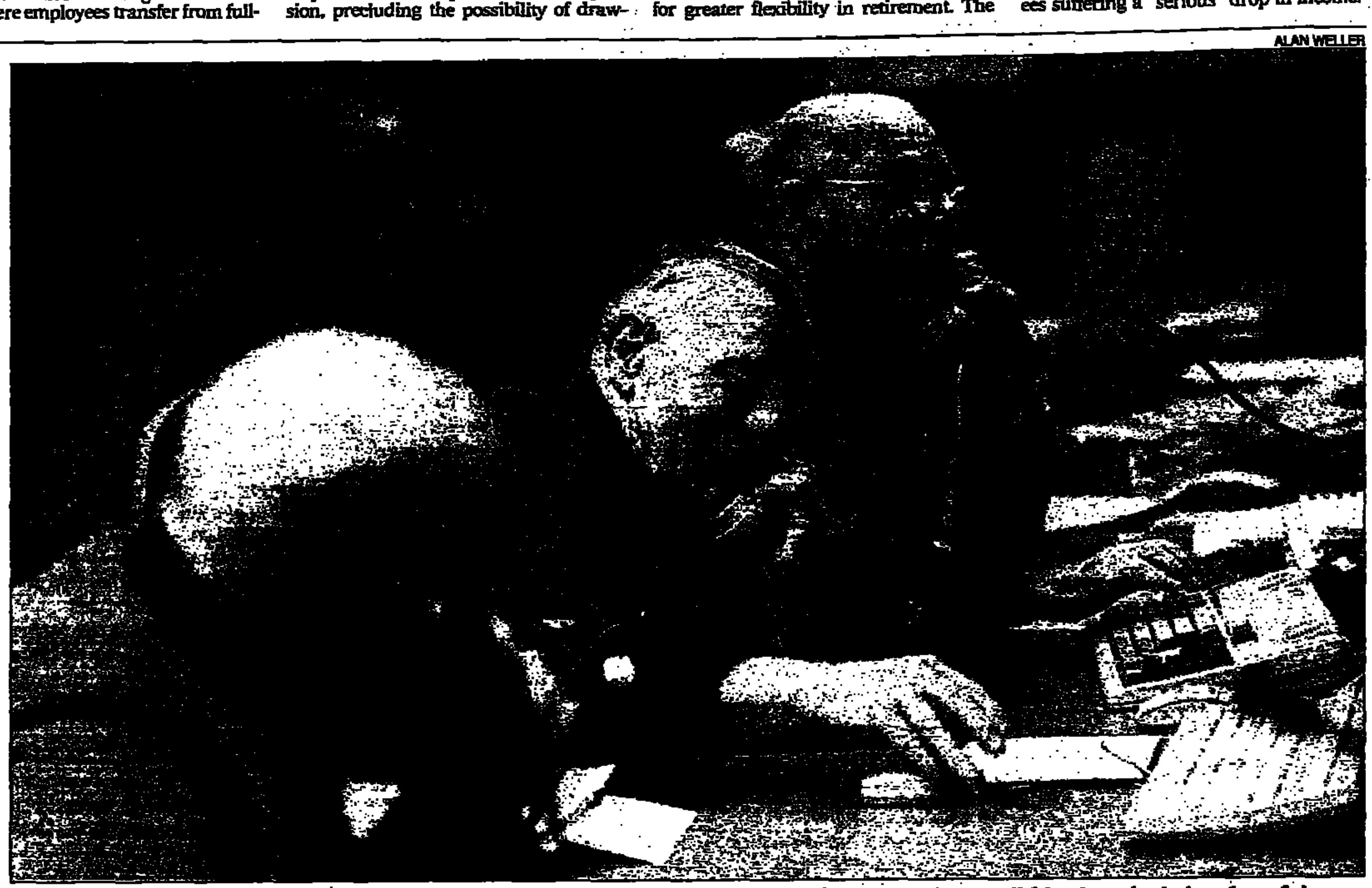

Merrill Lynch, the investment bank, invited more than 400 pensioners to its London offices yesterday to call friends and relatives free of charge for Christmas. Pictured are Chelsea pensioners Charlie Lanning (left), John Judge and Frederick Beavitt with Alfred Shord in the background

Christie's considers £500m SBC bid

BY JON ASHWORTH AND FRASER NELSON

DIRECTORS of Christie's International and hundreds of auctioneers are poised to cash in millions of pounds in shares and options after SBC Warburg Dillon Read was unmasked as the mystery bidder for the fine art auctioneer.

The Christie's board met last night to consider an offer by SBC believed to be worth about 300p a share in cash, valuing the business at up to £500 million.

Noel Annesley, deputy chairman, stands to make about £1.6 million from his shares and options. Christopher Davidge, chief executive, would make more than £1.3 million from selling out, while François Curiel, jewellery director, would take home about £1.2 million.

SBC Warburg would also have to redeem some £5 million of share options which are spread across the auction house's top three tiers of management. This would trigger an average £17,000 payout for some 300 senior staff.

A formal approach is possible this week, although discussions are more likely to spill over into the new year. A Christie's spokesman said yesterday: "It is a preliminary approach, and things are still at a very early stage."

A week ago Christie's rejected an initial approach that was deemed too low. Now SBC has returned with a higher offer.

SBC must win the support of Joe Lewis, the British millionaire investor who lives in the Bahamas and who holds 29.31 per cent in Christie's. Other leading stakeholders in Christie's include SPO Partners, based on America's West Coast, with 9 per cent, and Mercury Asset Management, with 6 per cent.

One option would see SBC Warburg sell the bulk of the shares to wealthy individuals, including Mr Lewis, while retaining a small stake. More ambitiously, it could finance the bulk of the deal itself, transforming Christie's into an offshoot of one of the world's most powerful banks. Such a move would give Christie's access to a huge balance sheet, allowing it to underwrite key auctions. It would further provide access to a rich and influential client base.

Swiss Bank Corporation announced a week ago that it plans to merge with Union Bank of Switzerland in a £35 billion deal that will create the world's second-biggest bank group. Duplication in London will lead to the loss of 3,000 jobs over the next 12 months.

Lonrho poised to unveil buyout at Dutton-Forshaw

BY JASON NISSÉ

THE restructuring of Lonrho under the guidance of Sir John Craven, the chairman, is to take a leap forward this week. It will announce the sale of its UK car dealership business, Dutton-Forshaw, to a management buyout backed by CVC Partners, the venture capitalists, for around £105 million including the repayment of debt.

The business, which includes Jack Barclay, the London Rolls-Royce dealer, has received a great deal of interest from the motor trade. However, Lonrho, convinced that selling to a rival may put the motor franchises in jeopardy, has refused to negotiate with any rival car dealers.

Paul Dixon, chief executive of Dixon Motors, said he had made an approach to Lonrho but was told it was negotiating only with Dutton-Forshaw's management.

The deal is the first of a series of transactions that are expected to transform Lonrho from a conglomerate into two separately quoted companies — one concentrating on mining, the other on trading within Africa.

However, Lonrho is now expected to call off talks with Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi Arabian investor, over the £250 million sale of its Princess Hotels chain. It had hoped to complete the sale to Prince Alwaleed, whose investments include the George V hotel in Paris and stakes in Eurodisney and Canary Wharf, earlier this month.

Lonrho is now expected to remarket the business, with Starwood Lodging, the US leisure group, and Hilton Hotels Corporation leading the bidding.

Talks with JCI, the South African mining group, about a possible £450 million takeover by Lonrho, are continuing. However, Mzi Khumalo, JCI's chairman, has indicated that he wants a higher price than Lonrho is prepared to pay.

■ Tomorrow
Julian Lee provides a unique insight into the world of marketing

■ Wednesday
Building society windfalls give a timely boost to First Choice Holidays

■ Friday
Janet Bush, our Economics Editor, right, assesses Gordon Brown's first eight months as Chancellor

This week in THE TIMES

Shell leads Times league

BY JON ASHWORTH

SHELL is leading the field in *The Times*'s league of top UK companies, scoring 79 out of 100 on a range of criteria including boardroom pay, financial performance and attitude to staff.

Our weekly series of corporate profiles, which tracks FTSE 100 companies, has Lloyds TSB in second place, with a score of 75½, followed by BG and Asda, both on 74, and Smiths Industries on 73. Those trailing include British Airways on 61 and Pearson on 59.

BAT Industries appears today scoring 49, reflecting difficulties facing tobacco companies and boardroom excesses.

Corporate ethical policy is assessed by Integrity Works, a consultancy, which considers how declarations of ethical intent in the annual report — towards local communities, the environment, and so forth — actually stand up against international best practice.

Crisp Consulting has devised a formula to evaluate pay, by which companies are penalised according to the extent to which directors' pay varies from a standard FTSE 100 model. The lower the score, the fatter the cat.

Shell tops the league table so far, rating highly in all areas with the exception of innovation and "City star" rating — the esteem in which the management is held by analysts and fund managers.

BA fares worst on attitude to staff and City star rating, reflecting difficulties faced by Bob Ayling, chief executive. Pearson is dogged by poor performance and lack of innovation.

Corporate profile, page 44

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